1

Josephine the French Rose

Comic artwork by **Yumiko Igarashi**

Story by **Kaoru Ochiai**

Josephine the French Rose

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi

Story by Kaoru Ochiai

Josephine the French Rose (1)

Josephine the French Rose-Part I

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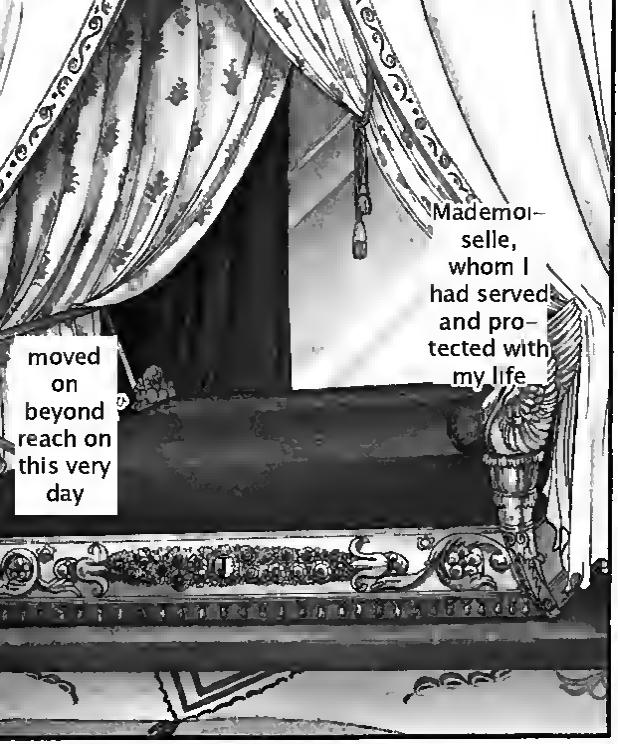

moved on beyond reach on this very day
Mademoi-selle, whom I had served and pro-tected with my life

On May 29, 1814,
My name is Agathon

Mademoi-selle had been loved by the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and become Empress
Her name is-

Calling the name of her beloved with her final breath
On the island of Elba...Bonapar te...

Josephine the French Rose

薔薇のジョゼフィーヌ

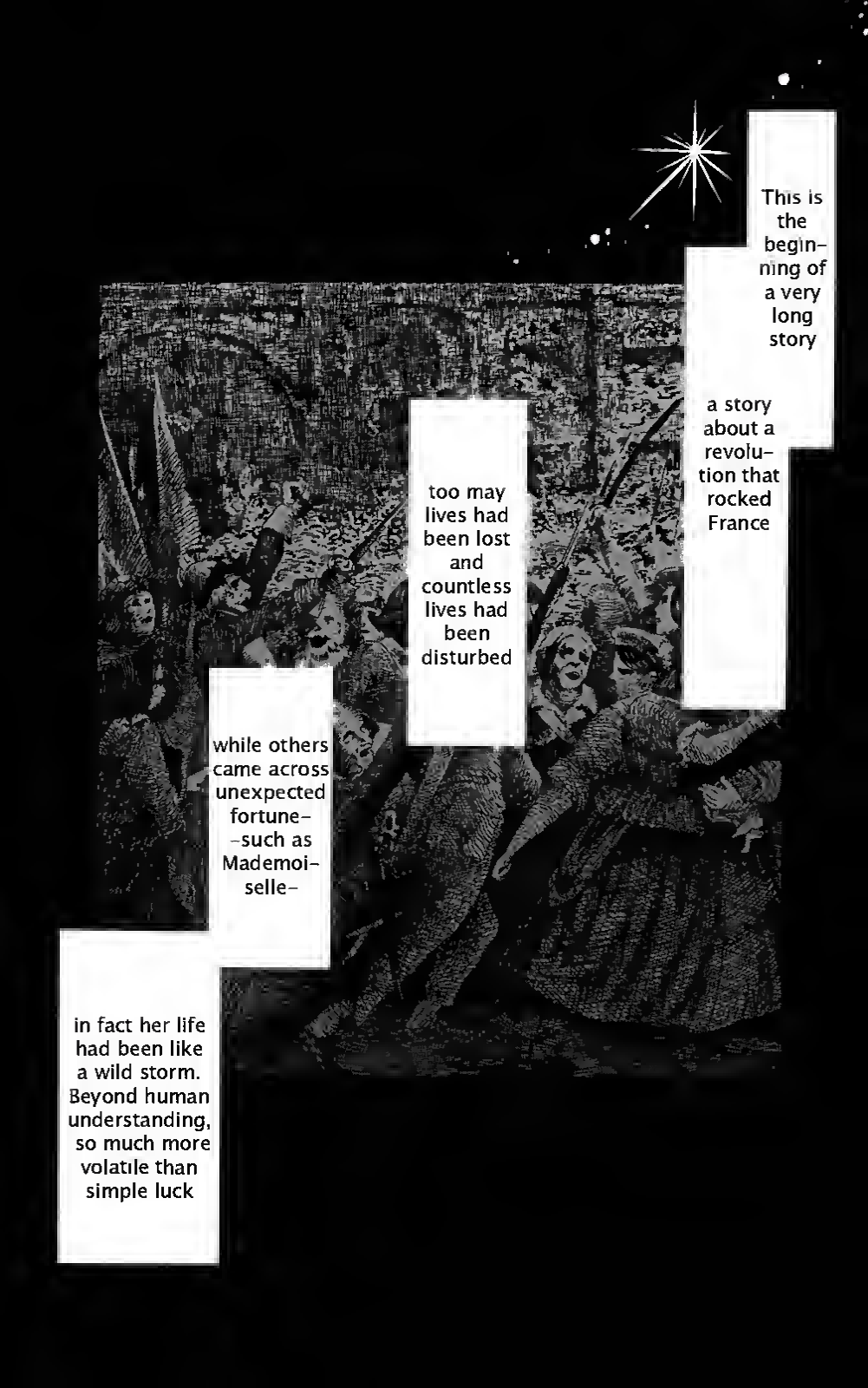
Part I

Josephine the French Rose

薔薇のジョゼフィーヌ

Part I

Tascher de la Pagerie residence
Agathon, stop Mademoiselle!
Mademoiselle!
French colony of Martinique island, 1773
Okay, I'm coming home
Aathon, let go of me!
I had been four years old at the time
squeeze
Agathon!
Mademoiselle had been ten at the time
There's nothing I can do if you catch me
Oh...
squeeze

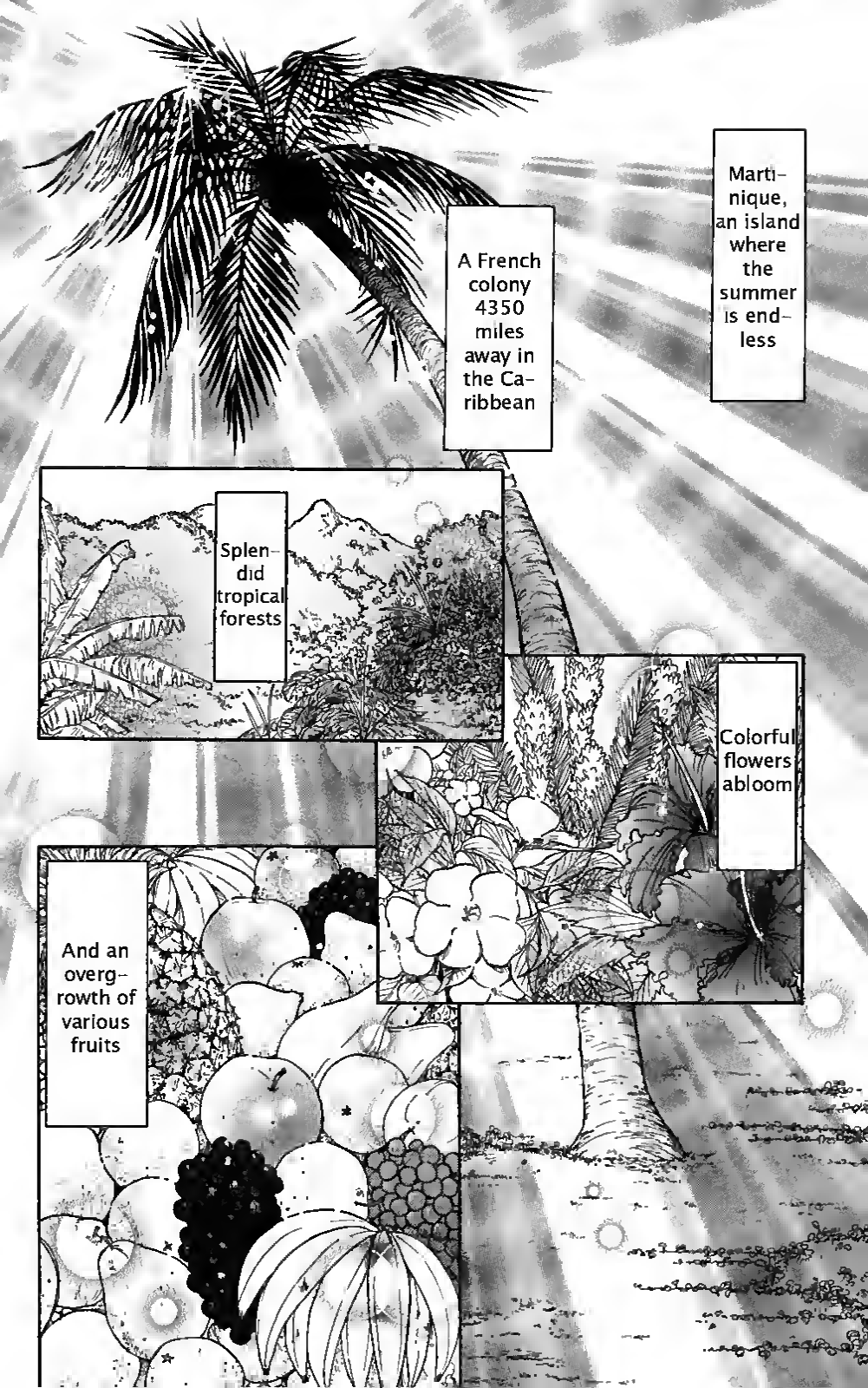

This is the beginning of a very long story
a story about a revolution that rocked France
too may lives had been lost and countless lives had been disturbed
while others came across unexpected fortune--such as Mademoiselle--
in fact her life had been like a wild storm. Beyond human understanding, so much more volatile than simple luck

Keep running away like this and we'll never finish this painting
Mademoiselle Rose
But gee, it's boring just standing still
Come, Agathon
And I'm good!
Catherine and Francoise aren't good at running away
Your younger sisters are being very good

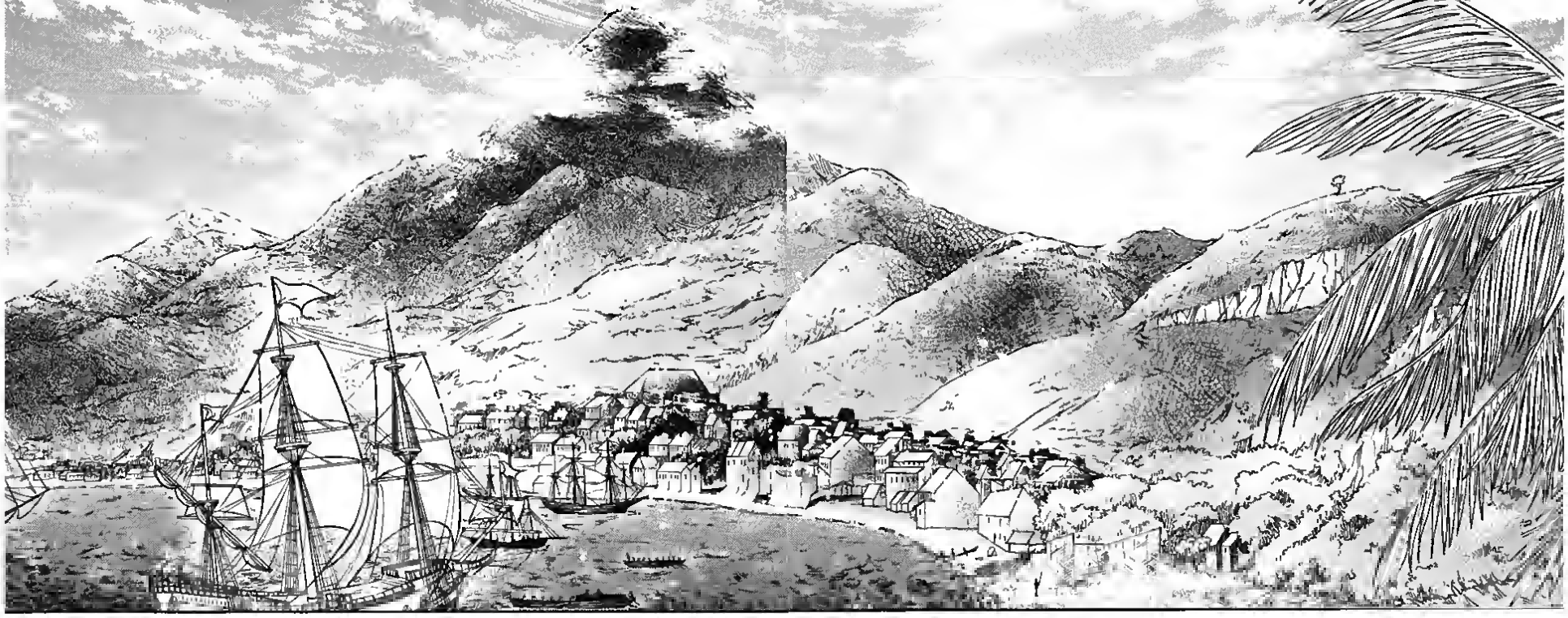
Aga-
thon!
Made-
moi-
selle!
roar..
Tiny little
Agathon
You,
Made-
moiselle
Your
mama
Marion?
grumble
grumble...
Me?
Who
will you
listen to?

That's a promise
Mademoiselle Rose, whom I served all my life
She later became known by another name
as Josephine, the wife of Napoleon
Ho, ho, ho
So it has finally been completed

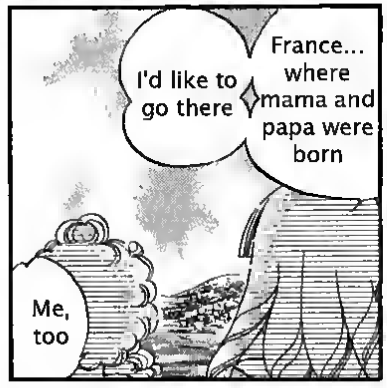
We'll, uh, have them work on it one of these days
Mademoiselle's mother was named Rose-Claire
We are missing a painting of the two of us
Yes, a noble's home does need a family portrait
Joseph-Gaspard de Tascher, Mademoiselle's father, was an unwealthy nobleman
...
Mademoiselle was radiant like the sun
It was in her shadow that I would eventually start to live my volatile life
My mother Marion was the house keeper and the Master's lover
I was born in secret, quietly without being recognized as a son

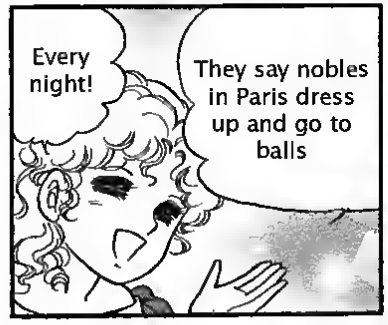

Marti-
nique,
an island
where
the
summer
is end-
less
A French
colony
4350
miles
away in
the Ca-
ribbean
Splen-
did
tropical
forests
Colorful
flowers
abloom
And an
overg-
rowth of
various
fruits

It was on such a tropical dreamland that Mademoiselle was born and raised
Atten-dez
Wait up, big sister
Let's go!
pant pant
Oh wow
C'mon, you'll get a nice present when we get up the hill
Look!
Ha ha ha
I am
I'm first
Mademoiselle was good at taking her introverted sisters out-doors

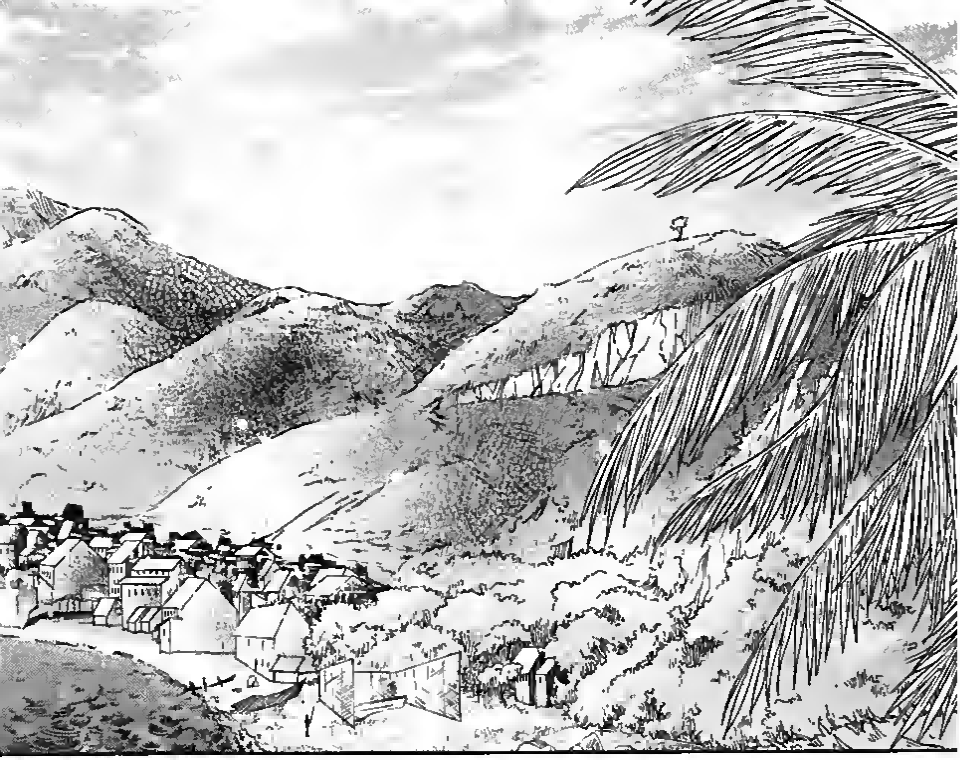


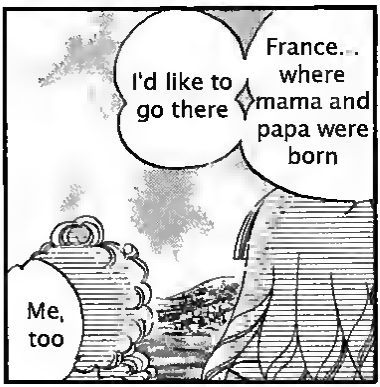
The French ships that arrive in Martinique after two months at sea
never fail to create a world of dreams for these girls


I'd like to go there
France... where mama and papa were born
Me, too


Every night!
They say nobles in Paris dress up and go to balls

It's a ship from France
Wow, it's enormous!




I'd like to go there
France... where mama and papa were born
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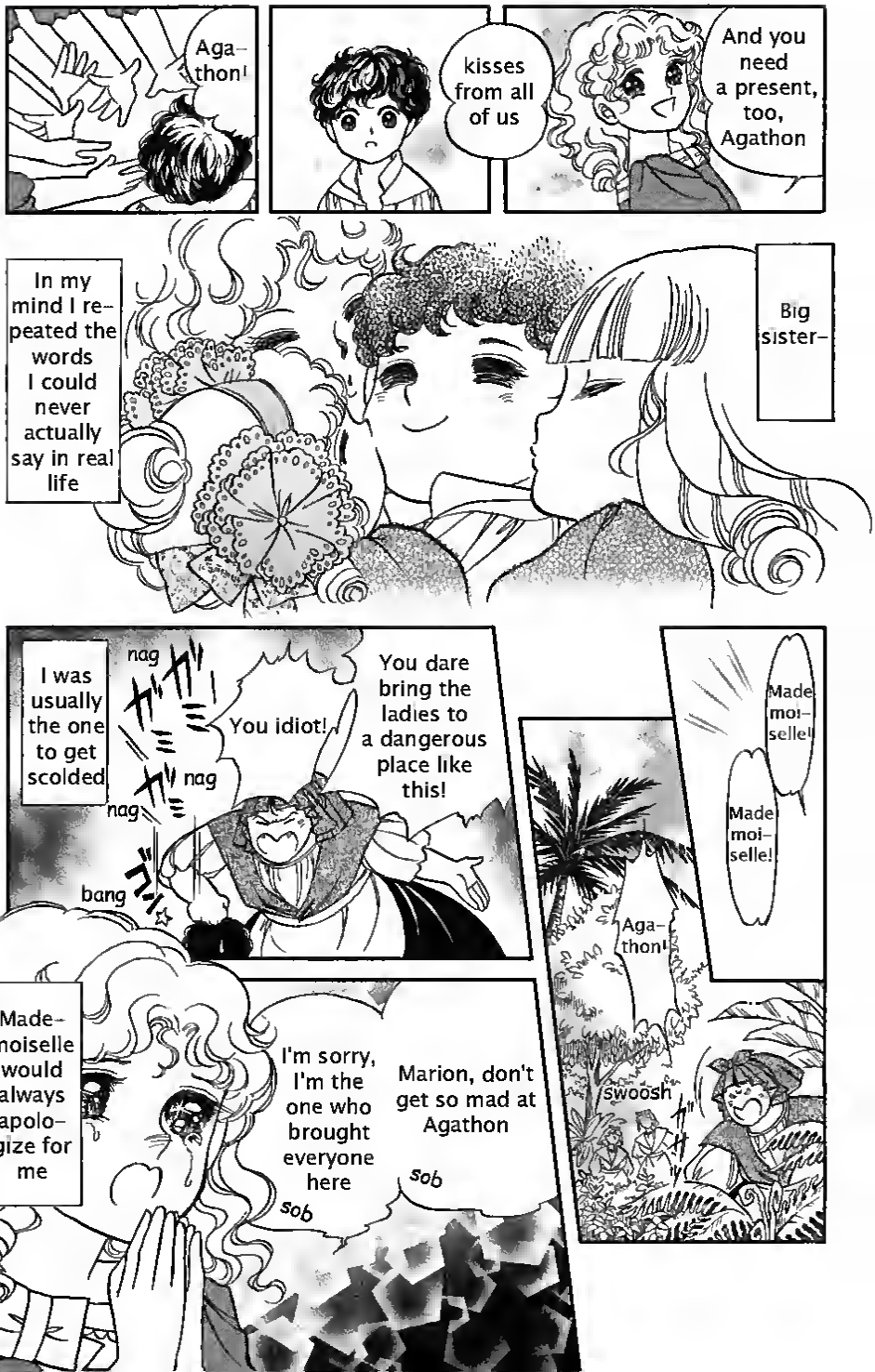
Every night!
They say nobles in Paris dress up and go to balls

It's a ship from France
Wow, it's enormous!

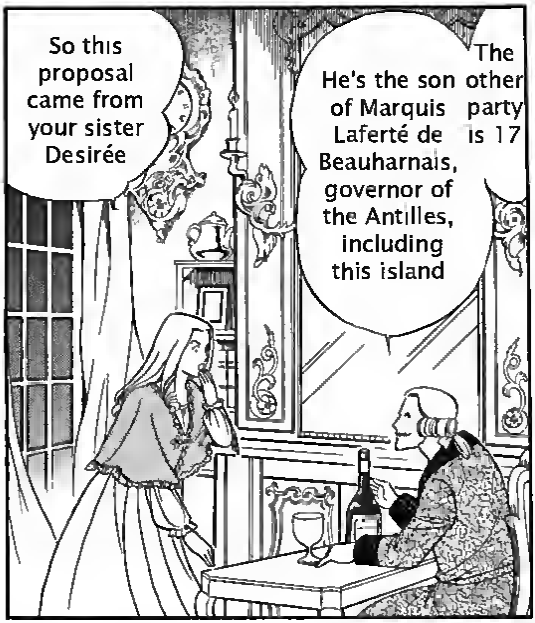
The French ships that arrive in Martinique after two months at sea
never fail to create a world of dreams for these girls

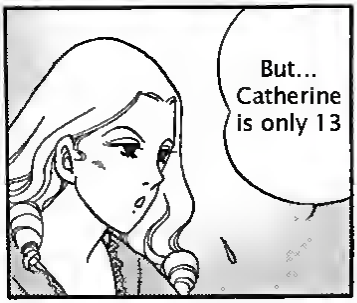
I had Marion buy it in town
Oh, a cameo brooch!
This is for you Cate-rine
Yeah, our present
Oh, big sister, where's our pre-sent?
Love you!
I love you, big sister"
Me too, guys. I love you both
You'd been saying you wanted one
And Francoise, this hair ornament's for you
Wow!
I feel like a real lady
They were adorable angels
I was happy just watching the sisters

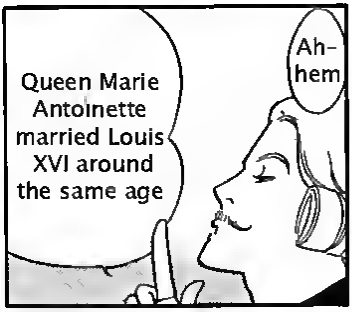

Aga-thon!
kisses from all of us
And you need a present, too, Agathon
In my mind I re-peated the words I could never actually say in real life
Big sister-
I was usually the one to get scolded
nag
nag
nag
You idiot!
You dare bring the ladies to a dangerous place like this!
bang
Made-moiselle!
Made-moi-selle!
Aga-thon!
swoosh
Made-moiselle would always apolo-gize for me
I'm sorry, I'm the one who brought everyone here
sob
Marion, don't get so mad at Agathon
sob

but she still hasn't become ladylike
Mademoiselle had turned 14
Ha ha ha
Agathon, push harder
Though she isn't very healthy, people believed she would become a true beauty
cough
Catherine is now 13
I love Marion's cookies
She eats a lot
I love Marion's fruit cake
Francoise was 11

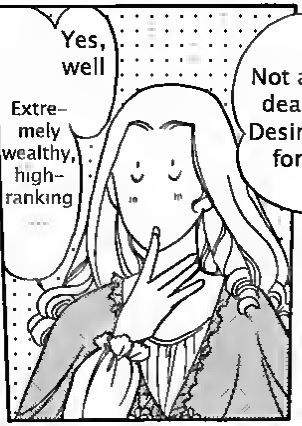
Don't tell the children yet
Ssh
What? A proposal for Catherine's hand in marriage?

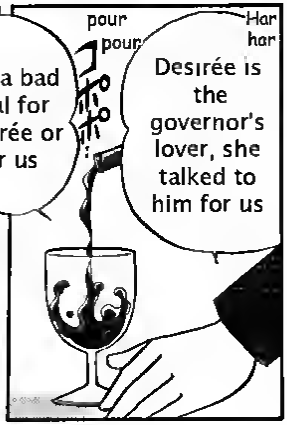

So this proposal came from your sister Desirée
The other party is 17
He's the son of Marquis Laferté de Beauharnais, governor of the Antilles, including this island

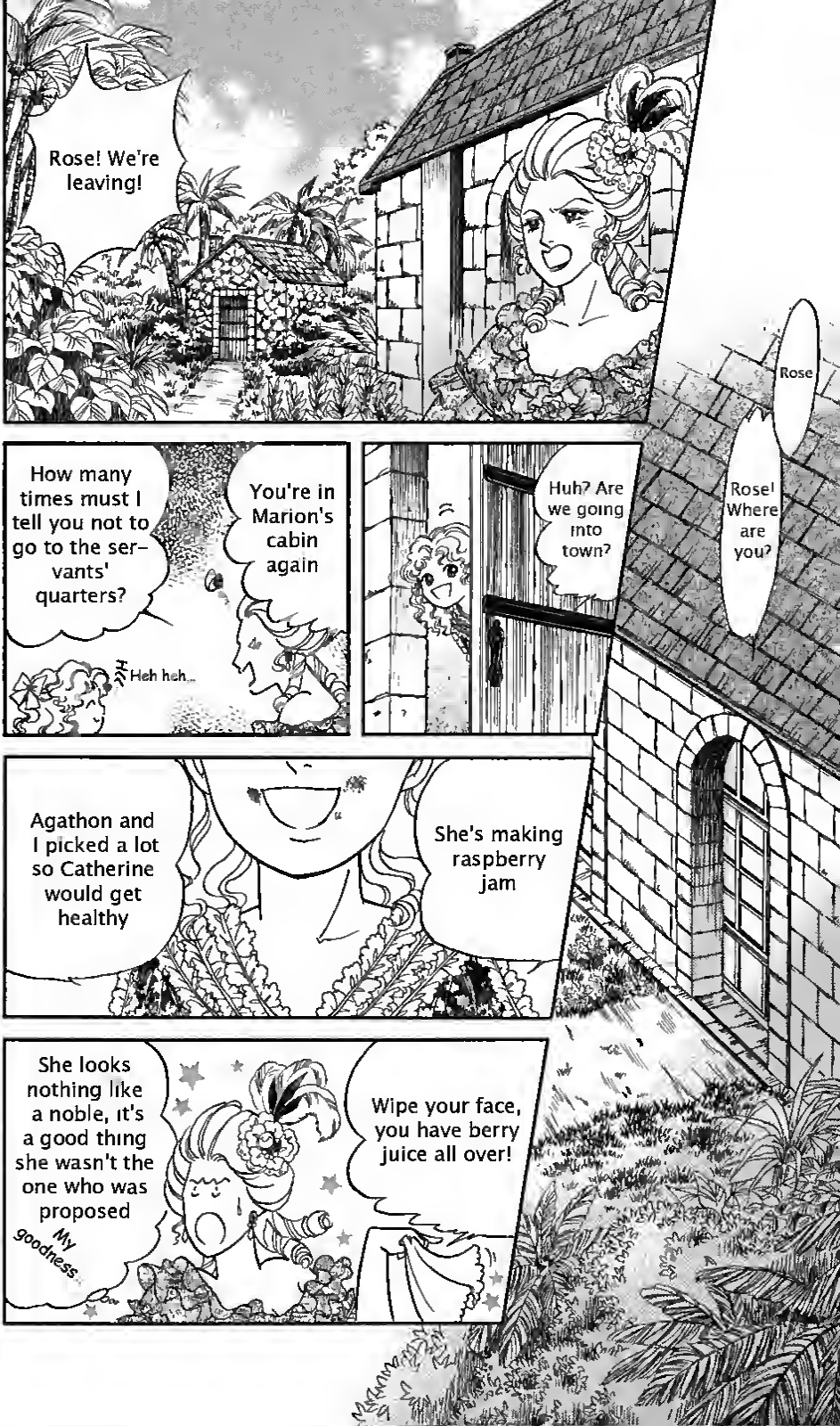

But... Catherine is only 13


Queen Marie Antoinette married Louis XVI around the same age
Ah-hem

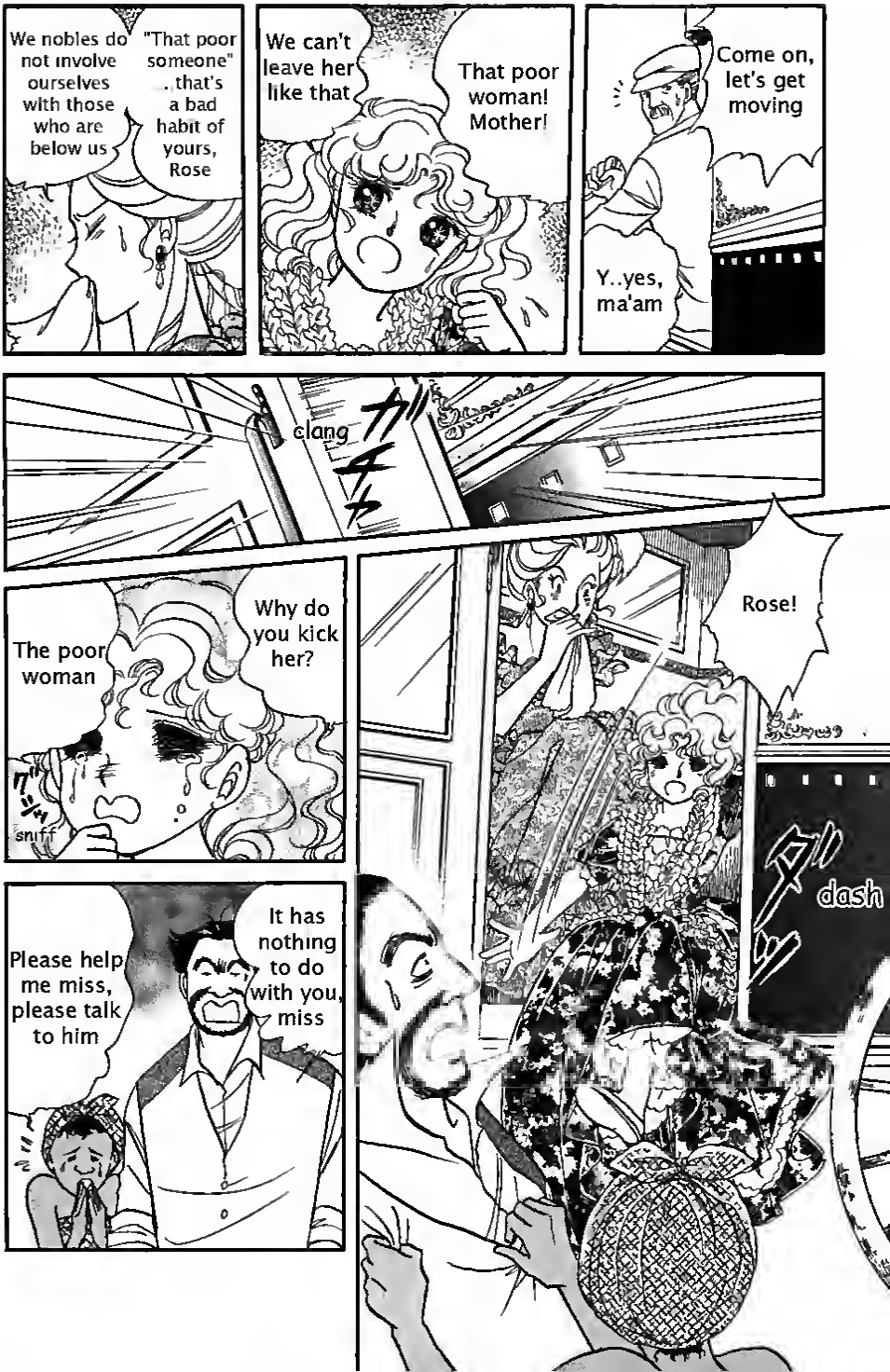
Har har har
This will keep our family secure


Yes, well
Extremely wealthy, high-ranking
Not a bad deal for Desirée or for us


pour
pour
Har har
Desirée is the governor's lover, she talked to him for us


Rose! We're leaving!
Rose
Rose! Where are you?
Huh? Are we going into town?
How many times must I tell you not to go to the servants' quarters?
You're in Marion's cabin again
Heh heh...
Agathon and I picked a lot so Catherine would get healthy
She's making raspberry jam
She looks nothing like a noble, it's a good thing she wasn't the one who was proposed
My goodness
Wipe your face, you have berry juice all over!

Hey, let go!
You have good taste, you can make choices for her
She doesn't play outside much anymore
Yes, he can carry our bags
Can Agathon come, too?
but she isn't feeling well today
rattle rattle ガラガラ
I also wanted to take Catherine
Bang
I said let go!
Go on!
It's not for nobles to see!
Please, sir
wobble
mo...
He's kicking a slave...
It's Mr. Gabriel who owns the plantation

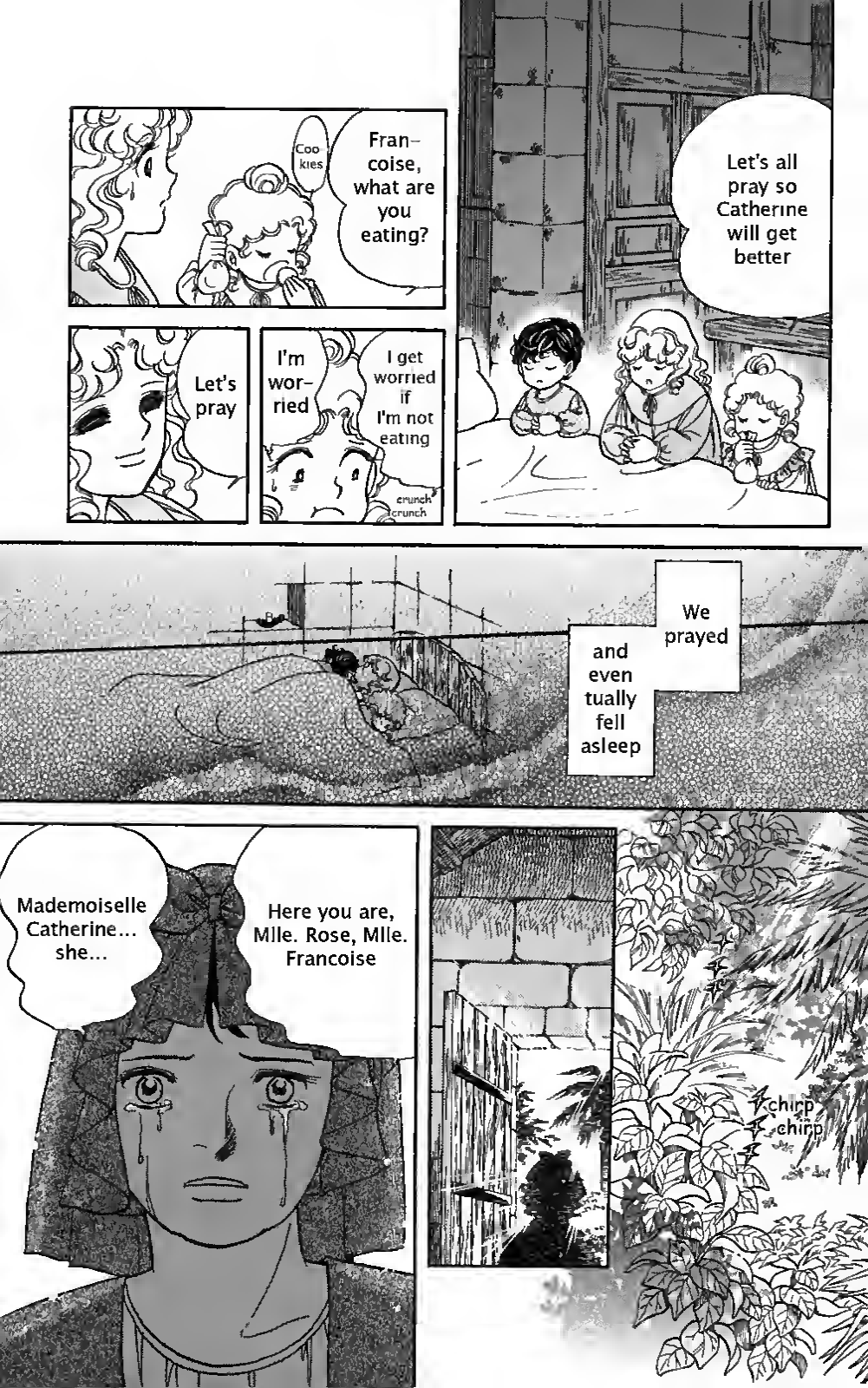

We nobles do not involve ourselves with those who are below us
"That poor someone", that's a bad habit of yours, Rose
We can't leave her like that
That poor woman! Mother!
Come on, let's get moving
Y..yes, ma'am
clang
カチャ
The poor woman
Why do you kick her?
sniff
Rose!
ダッ
dash
Please help me miss, please talk to him
It has nothing to do with you, miss

I'm setting an example! I'm showing you how much more important my liquor is than you are!
My son broke a bottle of Mister's rum
And he's been tied to a tree for three days ..please help him
Please forgive him...
This is terrible
I'll forgive him if you pay for the rum
Waahhh
...don't cry
I'll pay
We're leaving. Get back into the carriage!
This is ridicu-lous
Mother, please, pay him
Waahhh
As valuable as that pretty dress you have on
It's expen-sive stuff
Shut up!
aaaahhh
aaahhh

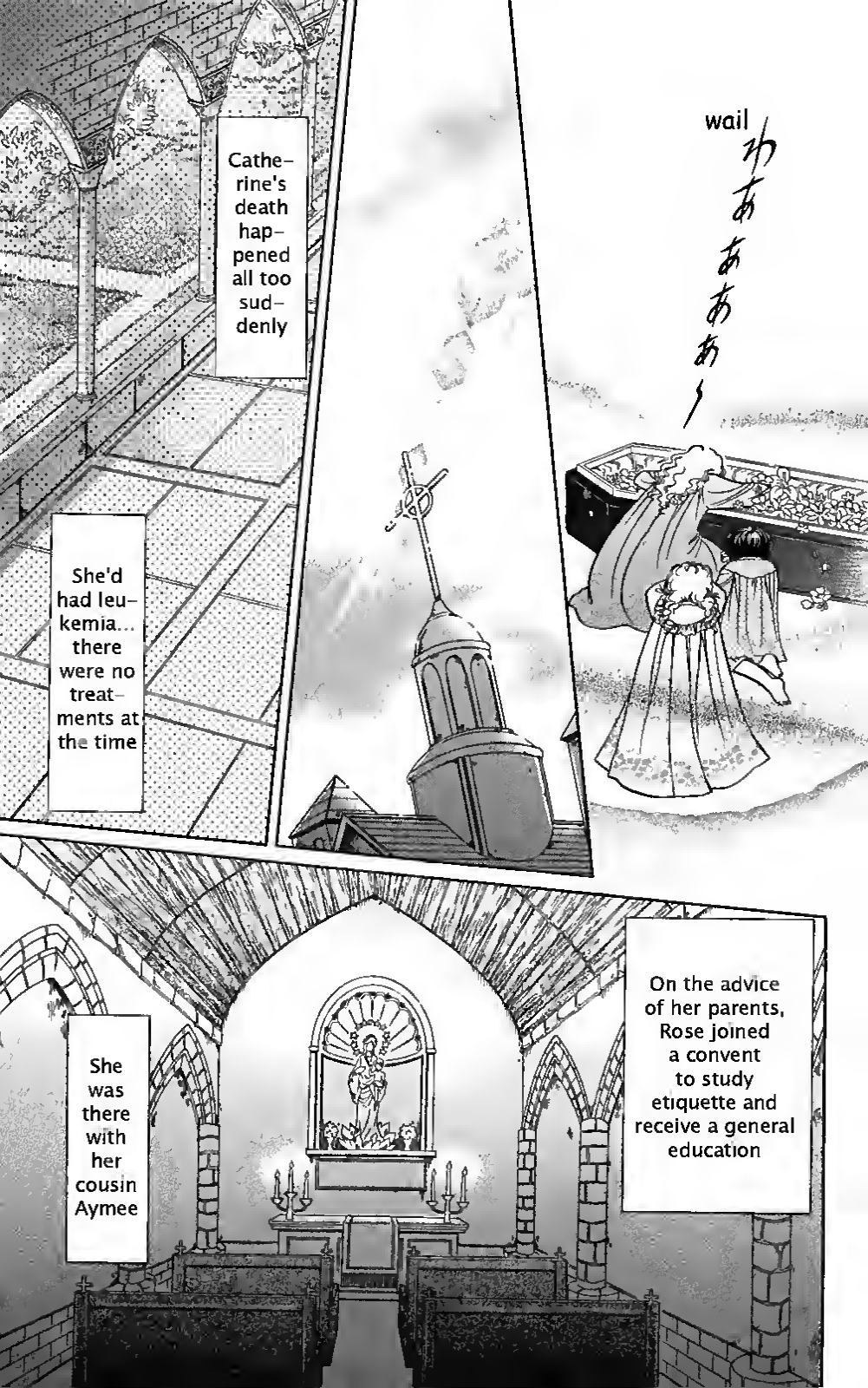
You... are the daughter of nobility!
What do you thing you're doing?
hrm uh
hrmph
You can have my dress, so please forgive them
sob
Agathon, undo my buttons
toss
toss
Mother!
thunk
Quick, remove my petticoat, too
..strrretch..
to und- ress out here...
You...you dare
faint

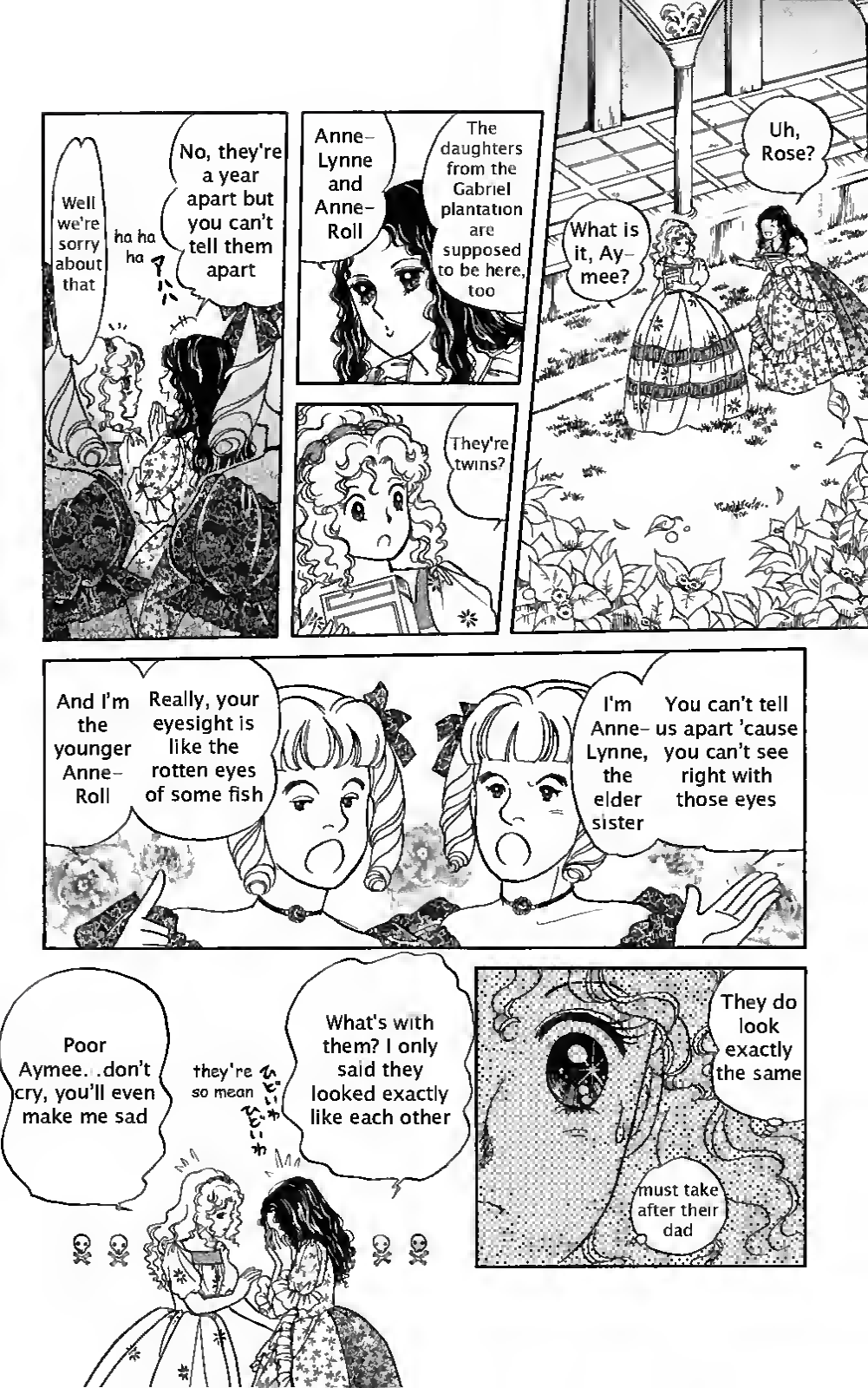
Yup
But you saved the woman's son
So that's why we didn't go shopping
Mother said we're going into town tomorrow without passing by Mr. Gabriel's place. What kind of dress do you want?
cough
Wow, big sister, that's amazing
cough
cough
choke
Are you okay, Catherine?
A hat...
like the one you have
cough
cough
cough
cough

Over here, doctor
It's... Cathe-rine!
Mo-ther!
Fa-ther!
Cathe-rine!
creak
Agathon
There was anxiety within the house-hold that night
But it's scary inside, we can hear people running and shou-ting
Mother told us to stay in our rooms
nod
Can we stay here?
Mother hadn't come home, and I was quietly waiting alone

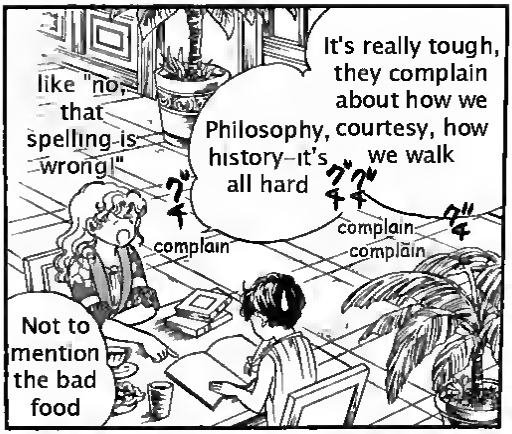

Cookies
Francoise, what are you eating?
Let's all pray so Catherine will get better
Let's pray
I'm worried
I get worried if I'm not eating
crunch crunch
We prayed and eventually fell asleep
Mademoiselle Catherine... she...
Here you are, Mlle. Rose, Mlle. Francoise
chirp chirp

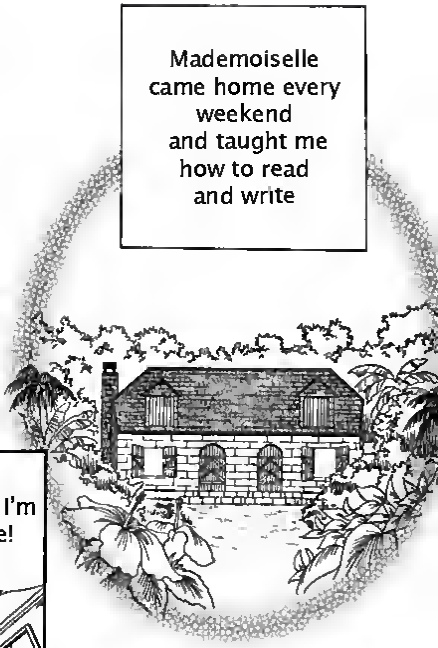
Cath-
erine!
Cathe-
rine!
Rose...
This is the hat that you wanted!
Please, open your eyes! Say some-thing!
It looks very nice onyou... very nice


Cathe-
rine's
death
hap-
pened
all too
sud-
denly
She'd
had leu-
kemia...
there
were no
treat-
ments at
the time
wail
わあああああ
She
was
there
with
her
cousin
Aymee
On the advice
of her parents,
Rose joined
a convent
to study
etiquette and
receive a general
education


Uh, Rose?
What is it, Aymee?
The daughters from the Gabriel plantation are supposed to be here, too
Anne-Lynne and Anne-Roll
They're twins?
Well we're sorry about that
ha ha ha
No, they're a year apart but you can't tell them apart
I'm Anne-Lynne, the elder sister
You can't tell us apart 'cause you can't see right with those eyes
And I'm the younger Anne-Roll
Really, your eyesight is like the rotten eyes of some fish
They do look exactly the same
must take after their dad
What's with them? I only said they looked exactly like each other
they're so mean
ひどいわ
ひどいわ
Poor Aymee. .don't cry, you'll even make me sad

I am your teacher, Sister Margerie
Let us work hard to become proper ladies
Uh, where are Anne-Lynne and Anne-Roll?
They are not daughters of nobility
They will study Latin from the friar in the wing next door
Ah, so that's what they're here for
What a hunk
yap
yap


like "no, that spelling is wrong!"
It's really tough, they complain about how we Philosophy, courtesy, how history—it's we walk all hard
complain
complain
complain
Not to mention the bad food


Mademoiselle came home every weekend and taught me how to read and write

Rose! I'm here!

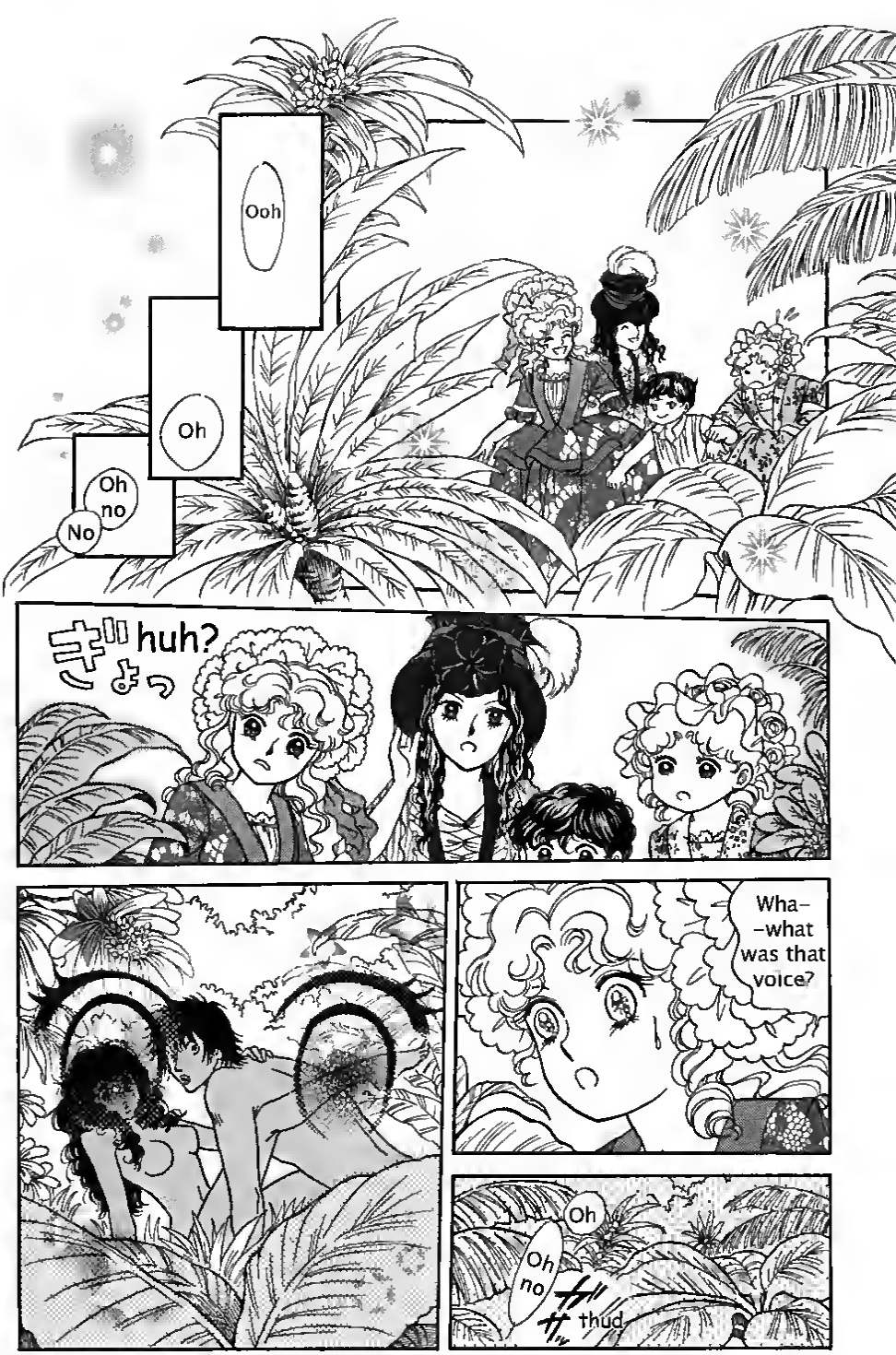
Aymee wants to go to the hill with a view of the port
Come with us, Agathon

Do you have a crush on anyone now?
You'll be a ladies' man in a few years
shake
shake

Agathon, you've grown. How old are you now?

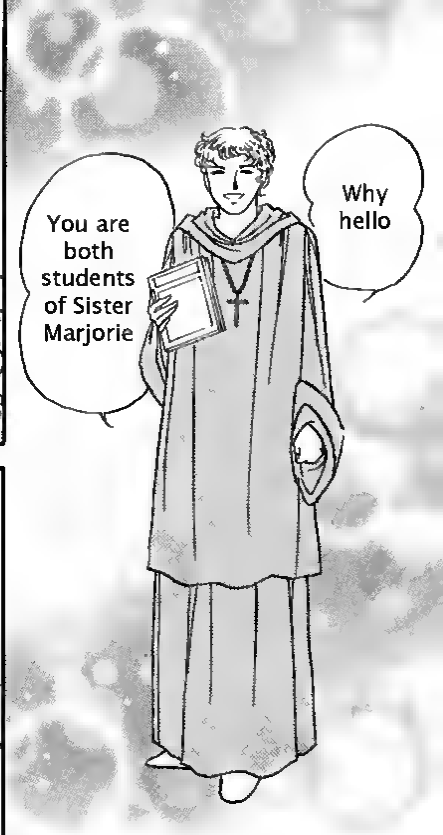
I'm nine, ma'am

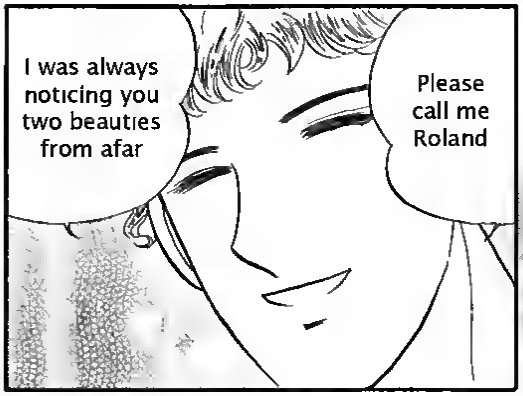
Catherine
Nuh-uh, it'll bring back memories of Catherine
You too, Francoise
ouch
Francoise is chubby and can't climb up the hill probably
Yes, let's
Let's all go and think about her
We'll join you later
It isn't safe for you ladies to go alone
Yes, well
That was very good, Aymee
I'm coming, too!

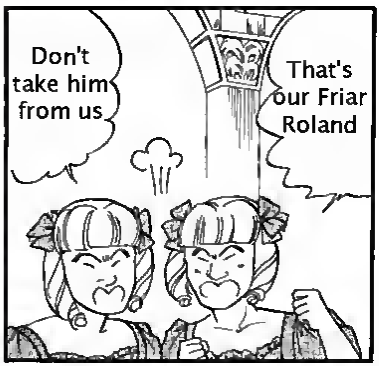

Ooh
Oh
Oh no
No
きゃっ huh?
Wha--what was that voice?
Oh
Oh no
thud

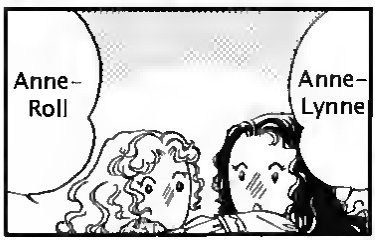
Really, these young people!
No, no means yes, yes
Heh heh
Oh ho ho
rush rush
What are you two doing in broad daylight?
ta-dah
Eek
Oh!!
The fine view around here seems to draw in those types
it's not proper educa-tion!
Let's head back, ladies
and girls matured quickly, just like its ripe fruits
The island of everlas-ting summer was very open
I've seen those types before
Those types ...?

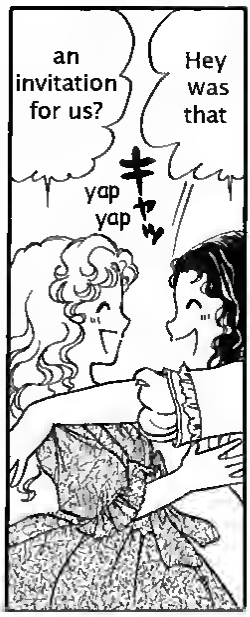
Friar


Why hello
You are both students of Sister Marjorie


I was always noticing you two beauties from afar
Please call me Roland

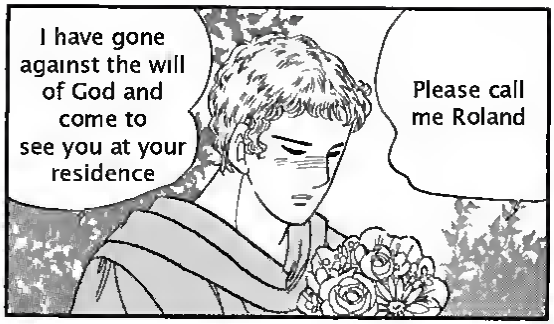

Don't take him from us
That's our Friar Roland


Anne-Roll
Anne-Lynne

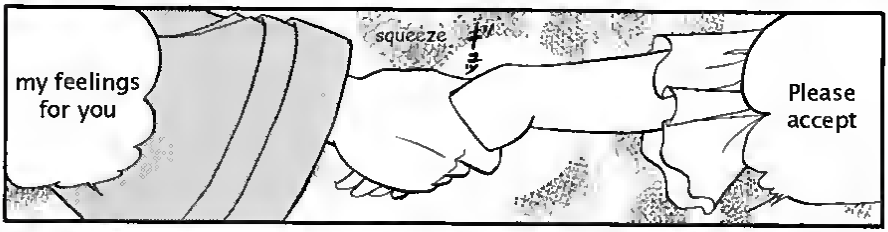

an invitation for us?
Hey was that
yap yap

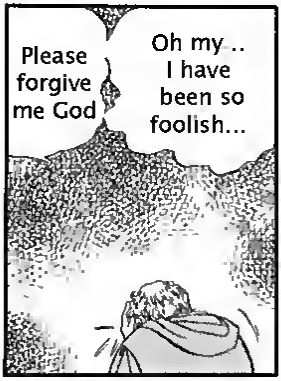
I'm usually free at night
Drop by my quarters for a visit anytime
free?
night?

Mademoiselle completed her education at the convent and came back an attractive lady
The nobles on the island
How about dinner, Mademoiselle Rose?
the young men on the island
the young workers at the plantations
everyone was waiting to hear Mademoiselle speak to them in her soft, sweet voice
Mademoiselle Rose...


I have gone against the will of God and come to see you at your residence
Please call me Roland

Friar?


my feelings for you
squeeze
Please accept


Please forgive me God
Oh my .. I have been so foolish...

thunk

Oh
uh-no

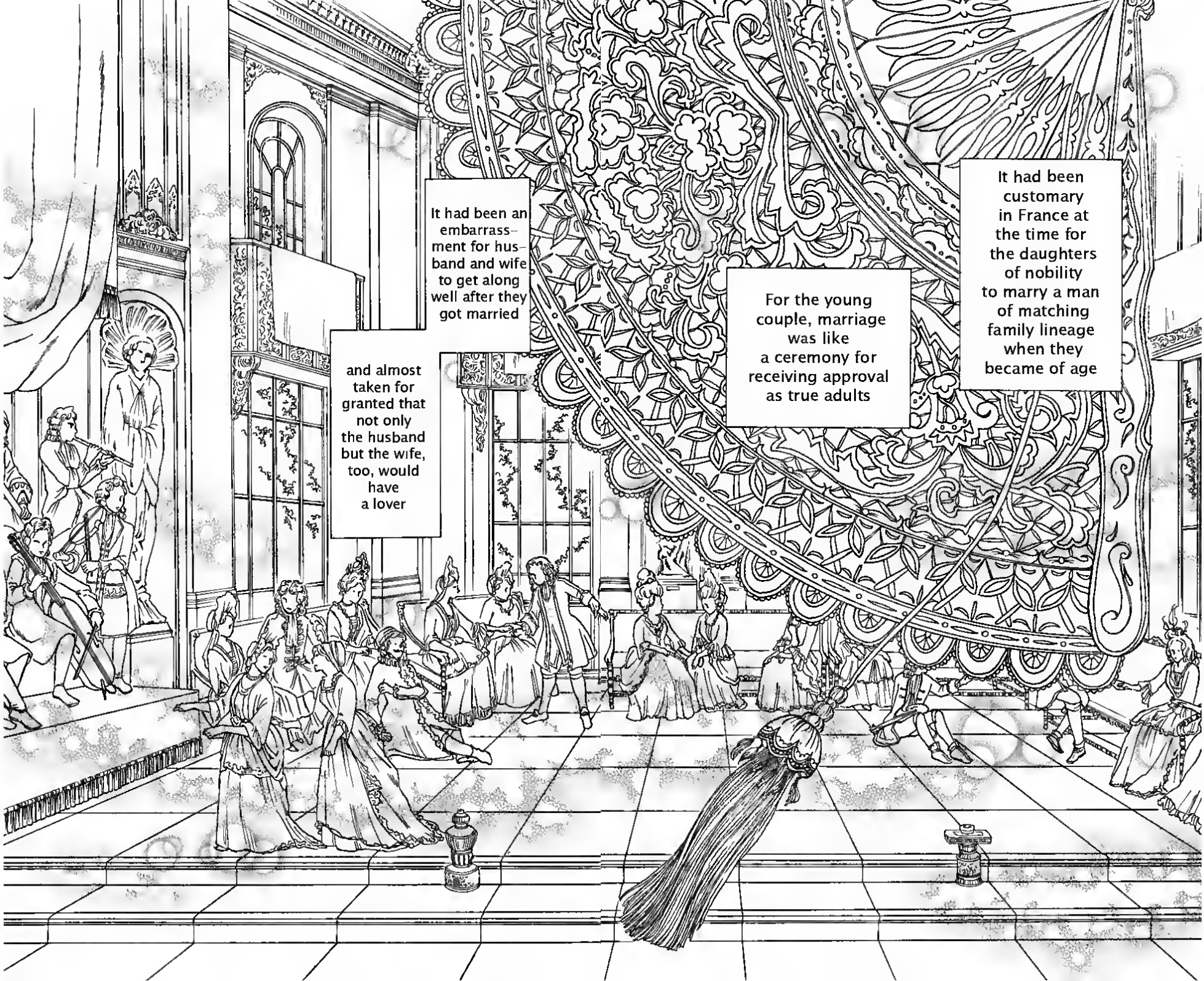
I said no... but I'm not sure if I really meant it...
...

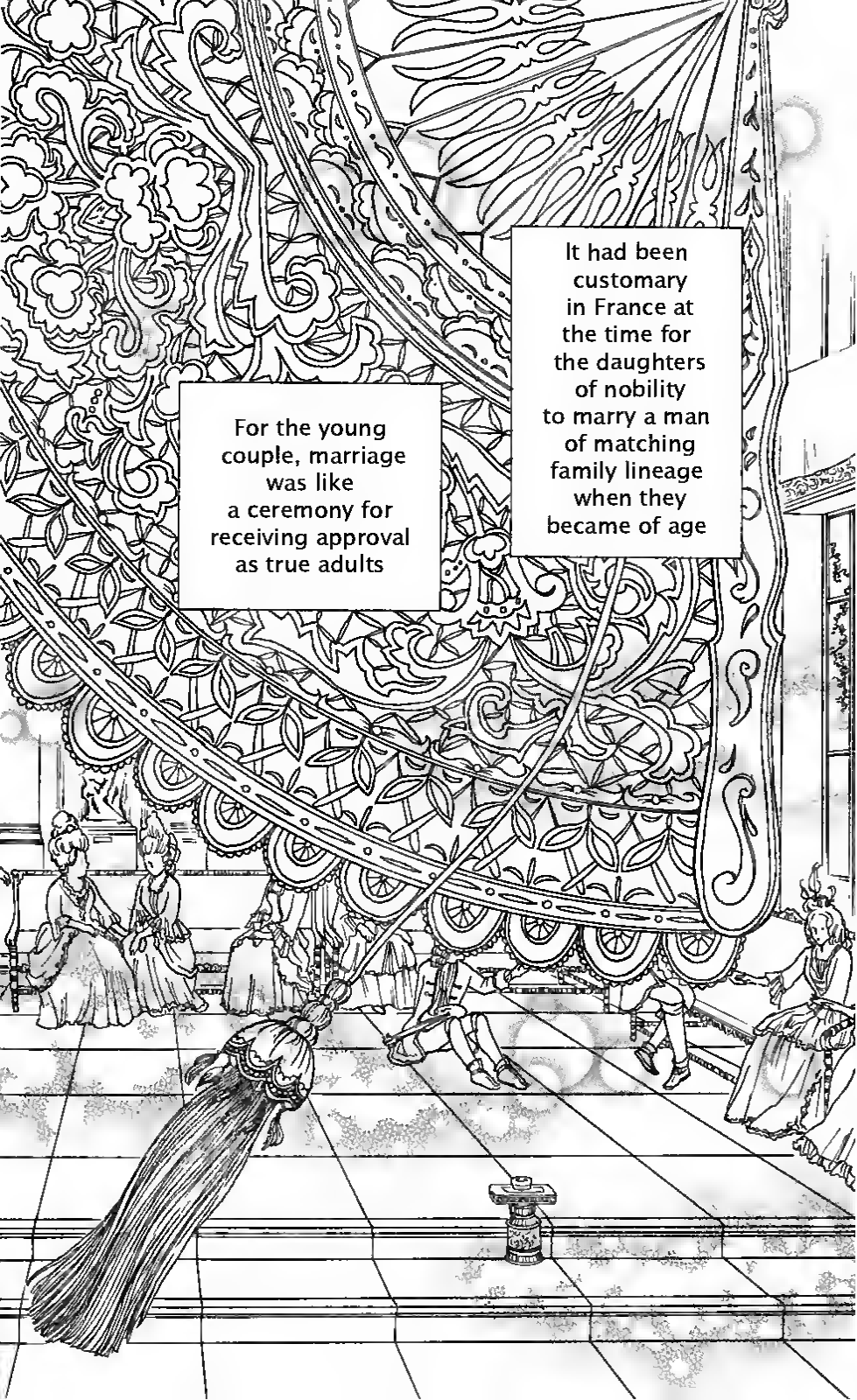
No

Roland
Look, our Roland is walking down the carriage drive
rattle rattle
strut strut
We can never forgive her!
What has that woman done to our Roland?
"Lost ?"
"My dear Rose?"
Friar Ro- land
Friar Roland
I will devote myself only to God
Dear virgins, I will never again touch a woman
strut
strut
Years later, Anne- Lynne and Anne- Roll's unfair re- sentment
would push Rose into rough times
Fare- well
I will never see you again
I can only seek His help
Now that I have lost dear Rose
strut
strut

He ordered this dress for me, too
it looks expensive
And when I said I wanted a dress to go with the jewelry
Aren't they some-thing?
they look expensive
Look Agathon, Father bought me all these
Huh?
Marria-ge?
Me?
Made-moiselle was 16 at the time

Am I getting married and moving to Paris?
But they live in Paris now
I have to leave our island?
He's the son of Marquis Beauharnais in Paris
Yes, the other party is 19
The Marquis was living here until 15 years ago
Master Alexandre was born on our island
I hear Viscount Alexandre is a great dancer, even in Paris. Maybe you'll be invited to the Palace of Versailles!
This is a chance for your to become a part of Parisian society
The Palace of Versailles
Paris society


It had been customary in France at the time for the daughters of nobility to marry a man of matching family lineage when they became of age
For the young couple, marriage was like a ceremony for receiving approval as true adults
It had been an embarrass-ment for hus-band and wife to get along well after they got married
and almost taken for granted that not only the husband but the wife, too, would have a lover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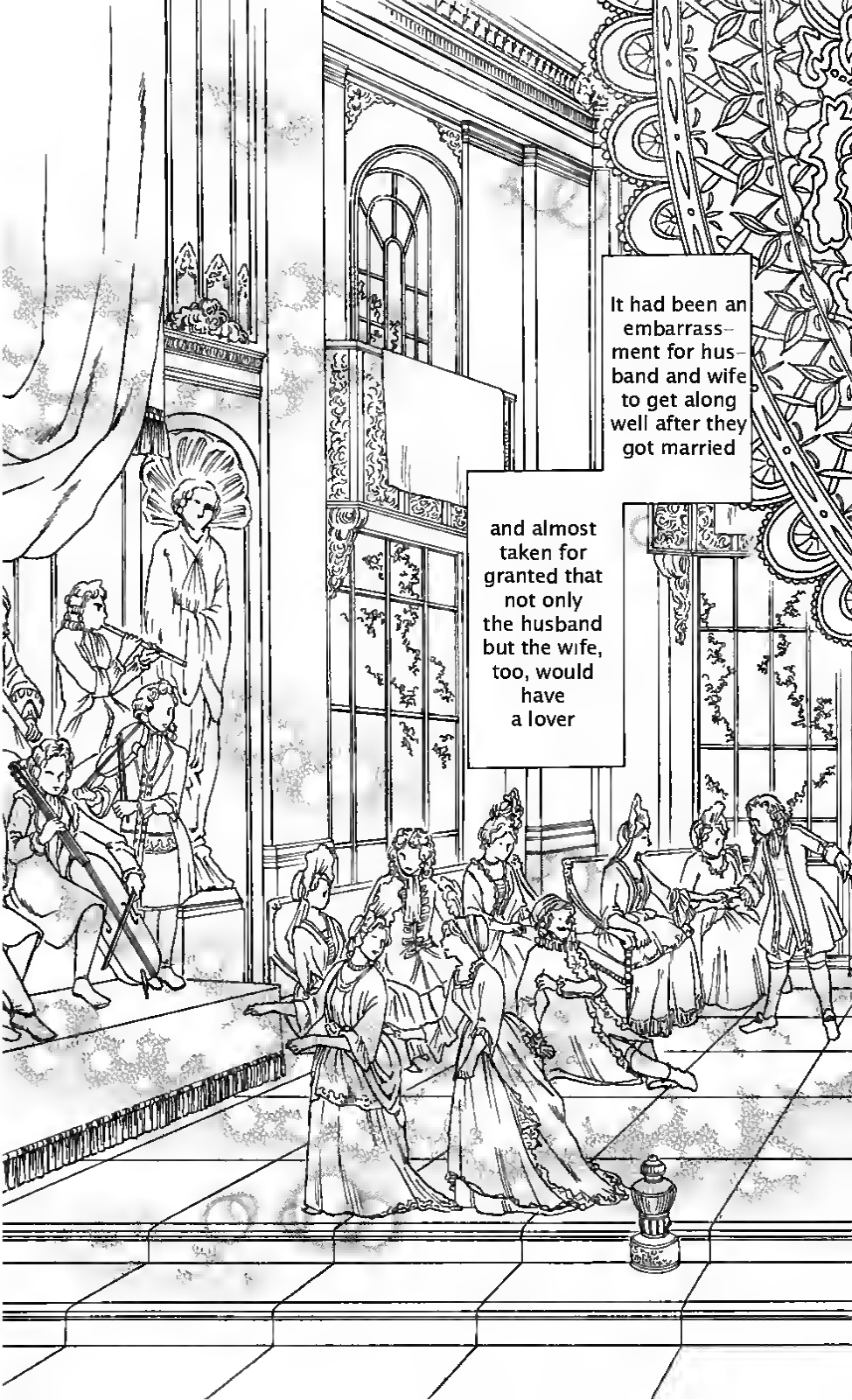
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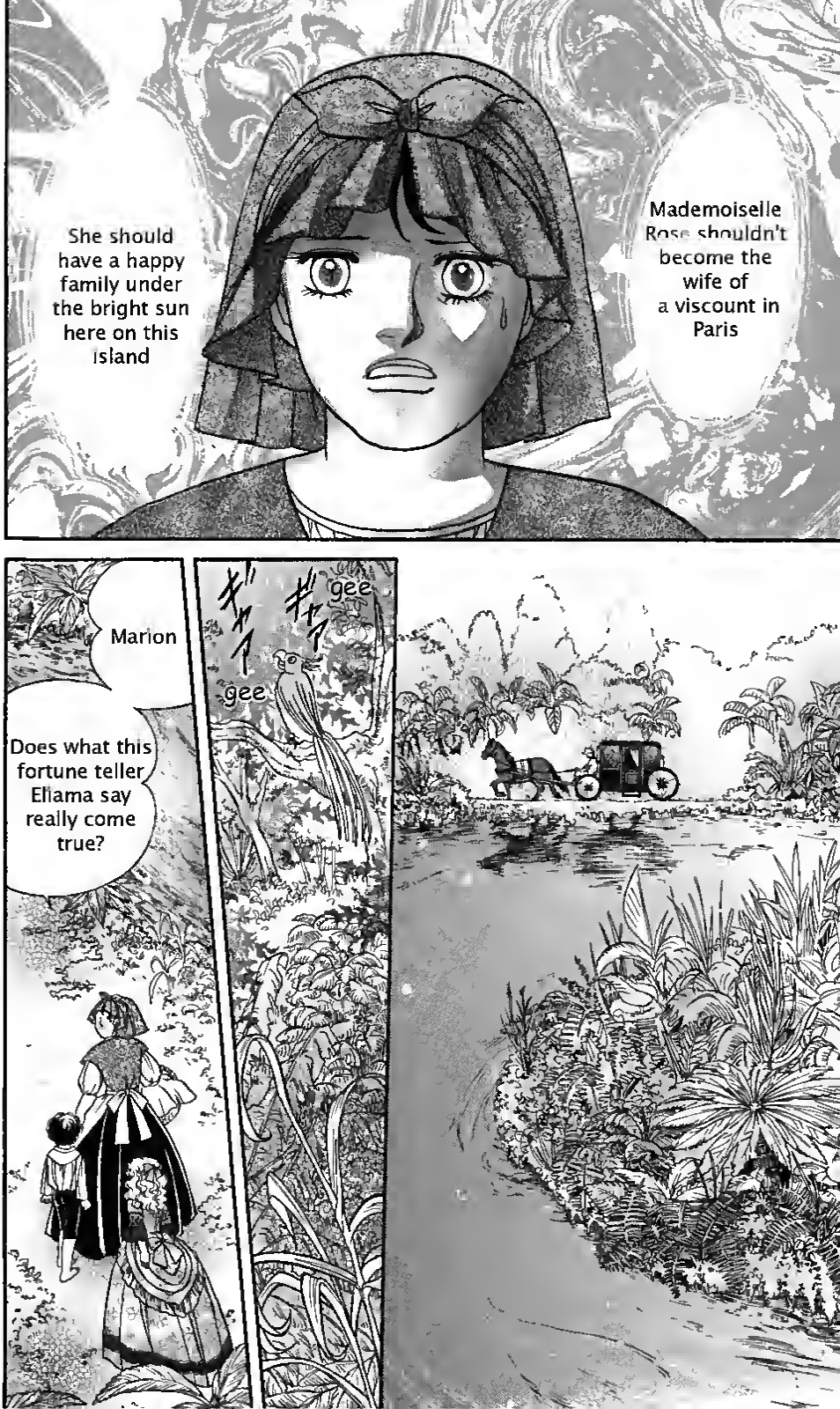
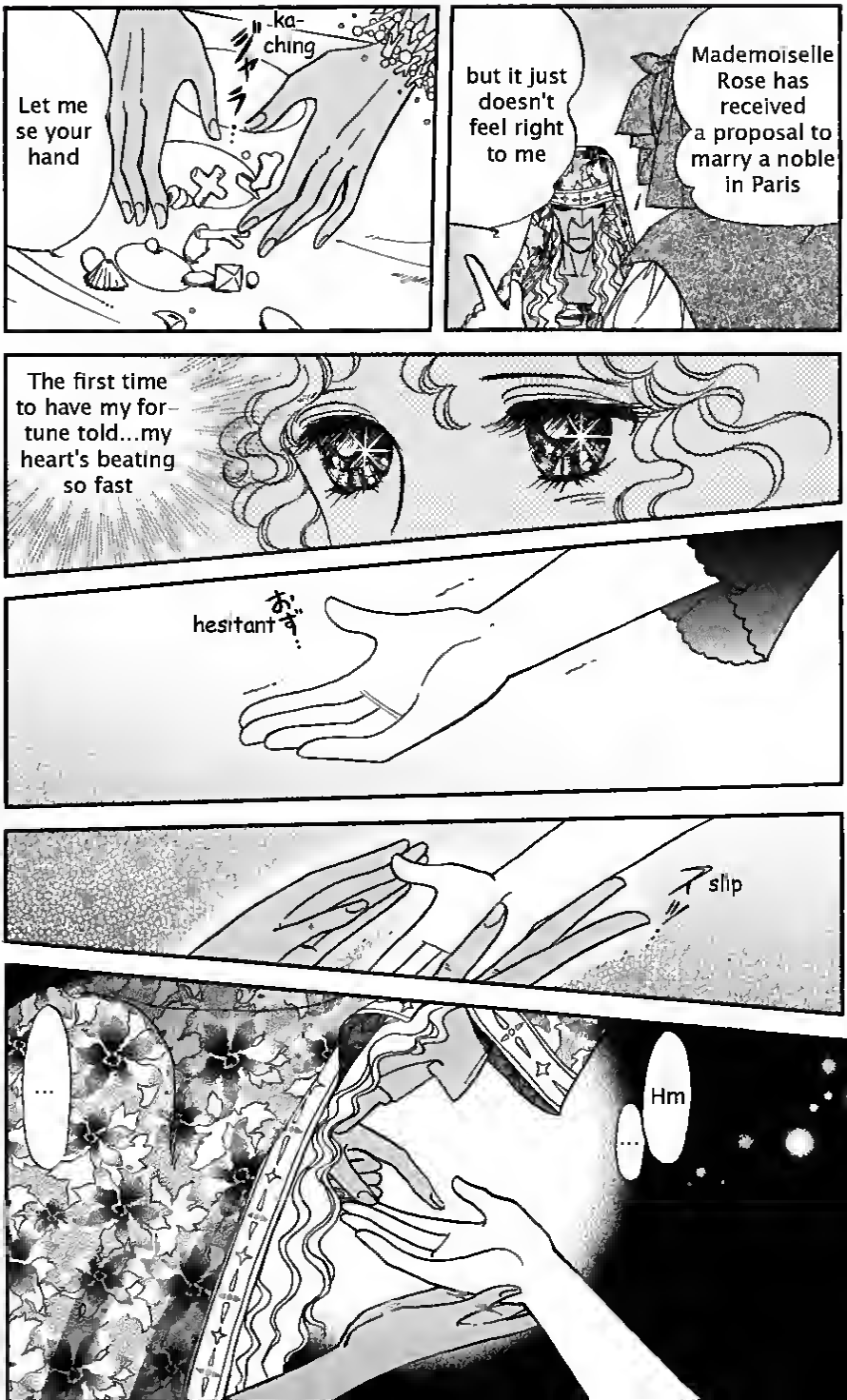
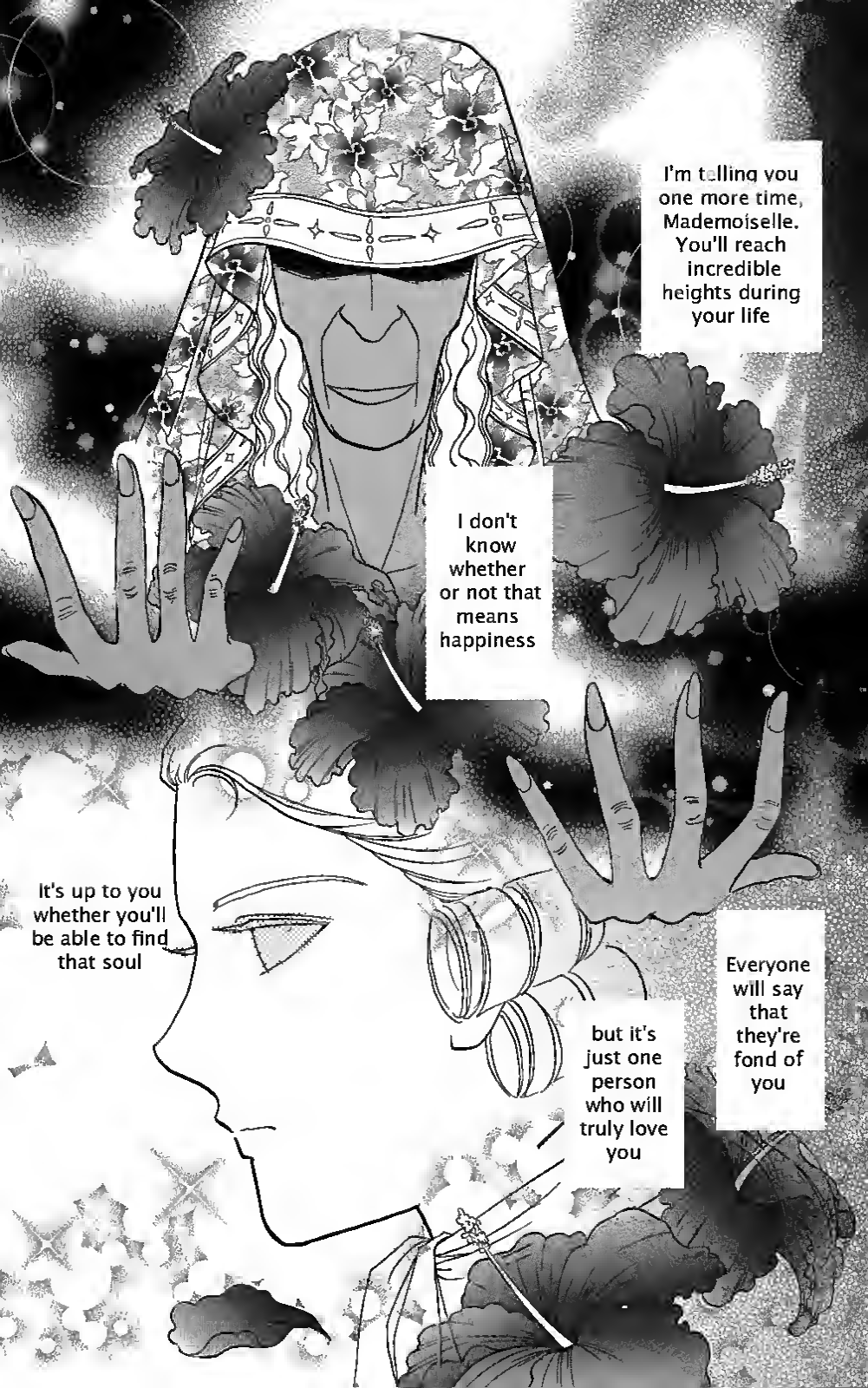

She should have a happy family under the bright sun here on this island
Mademoiselle Rose shouldn't become the wife of a viscount in Paris
Marion
Does what this fortune teller Eliama say really come true?
ギャア
gee
ギャア
gee

We're here, Mademoiselle
and everything happened exactly like she had told me
I saw her a number of times when I had been troubled
every-thing.. exactly..
You want me to read the future for this young lady?
Is that you Marion? I've been waiting for you
gulp

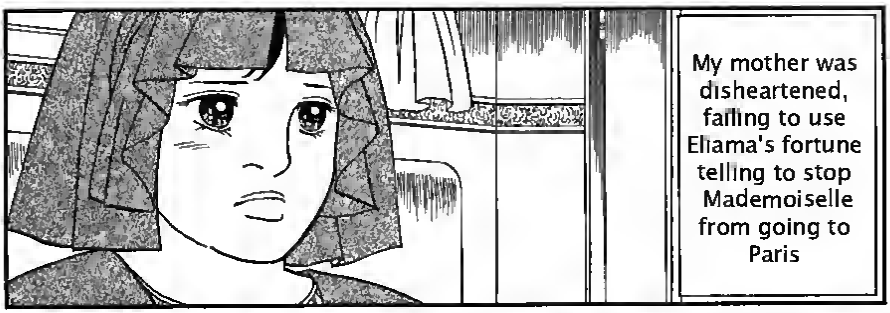

Let me se your hand
-ka-ching
but it just doesn't feel right to me
Mademoiselle Rose has received a proposal to marry a noble in Paris
The first time to have my fortune told...my heart's beating so fast
hesitant おず
slip
...
Hm
...

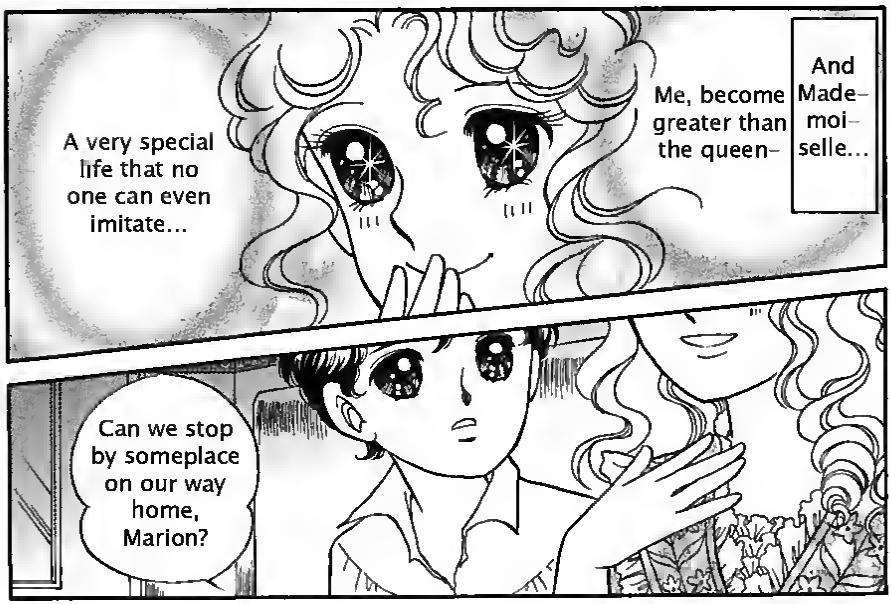
You'll be living a very special life
one that no one can even try to imitate
You'll become greater than the queen
Me? Greater than the queen?
What does that mean?

This is where Mademoiselle took her first step toward the future
Agathon ...Mademoiselle is the sun
and you are the moon
never part with her
I...
I'll go to Paris!
and I, too, took my first step toward my own fate


I'm telling you one more time, Mademoiselle. You'll reach incredible heights during your life
I don't know whether or not that means happiness
It's up to you whether you'll be able to find that soul
Everyone will say that they're fond of you
but it's just one person who will truly love you

Silence befell the return carriage to the estate

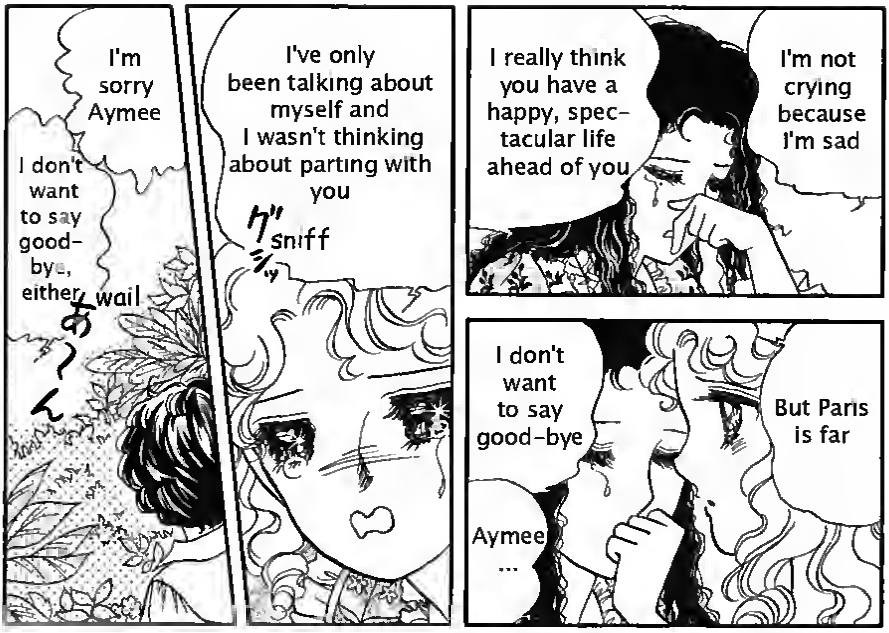

My mother was disheartened, failing to use Eliama's fortune telling to stop Mademoiselle from going to Paris


A very special life that no one can even imitate...
Me, become greater than the queen-
And Made-moi-selle...
Can we stop by someplace on our way home, Marion?

Aymee!
Aymee, listen!
What is it, Rose?
I'm going to Paris!
I'm getting married!

It seemed Mademoiselle couldn't help telling someone about this
And you see, Eliama took my hand like this
Uh-huh
Aymee, who was around the same age as Mademoiselle, was the perfect person for her to talk to
Wow!
She said I'll be a woman who'll be greater than the queen
Mother said he's very handsome
I'm sure Viscount Alexandre, who will become my husband, will take me to the top
He's the one person who will love me!

Agathon, go get Made-moiselle
irritated
irritated
Made-moi..
Made-moi-selle
We should be heading back
Please don't cry, Aymee
I'm sorry, Rose
Made-moiselle had stopped by for a very long time
burn
burn
my mother and I were waiting in the car-riage for more than an hour


I'm sorry Aymee
I don't want to say good-bye, either
wail
あ〜ん
I've only been talking about myself and I wasn't thinking about parting with you
ｸﾞｽﾝｯ
sniff
I really think you have a happy, spectacular life ahead of you
I'm not crying because I'm sad
I don't want to say good-bye
But Paris is far
Aymee ...

You crybaby, so kind... I love you
Don't cry, Rose

wail
あ〜
あ〜ん
wailん
I don't want to leave this place no matter how wonderful the life ahead might be
Rose ...

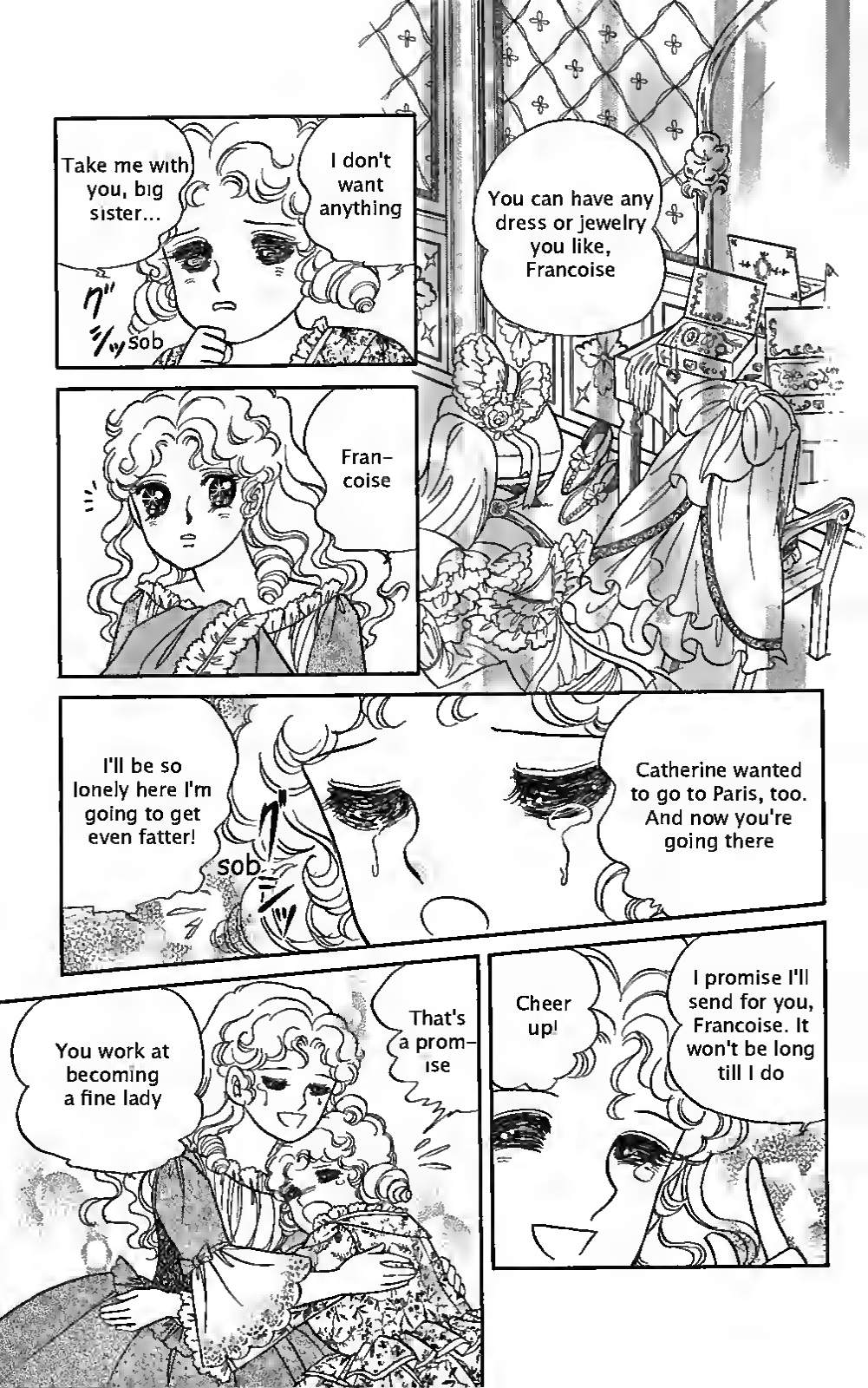
Even if we never see each other again, I'll be sure to help you if you're troubled or sad
Our hearts will always be connected no matter where you may go
that's a promise

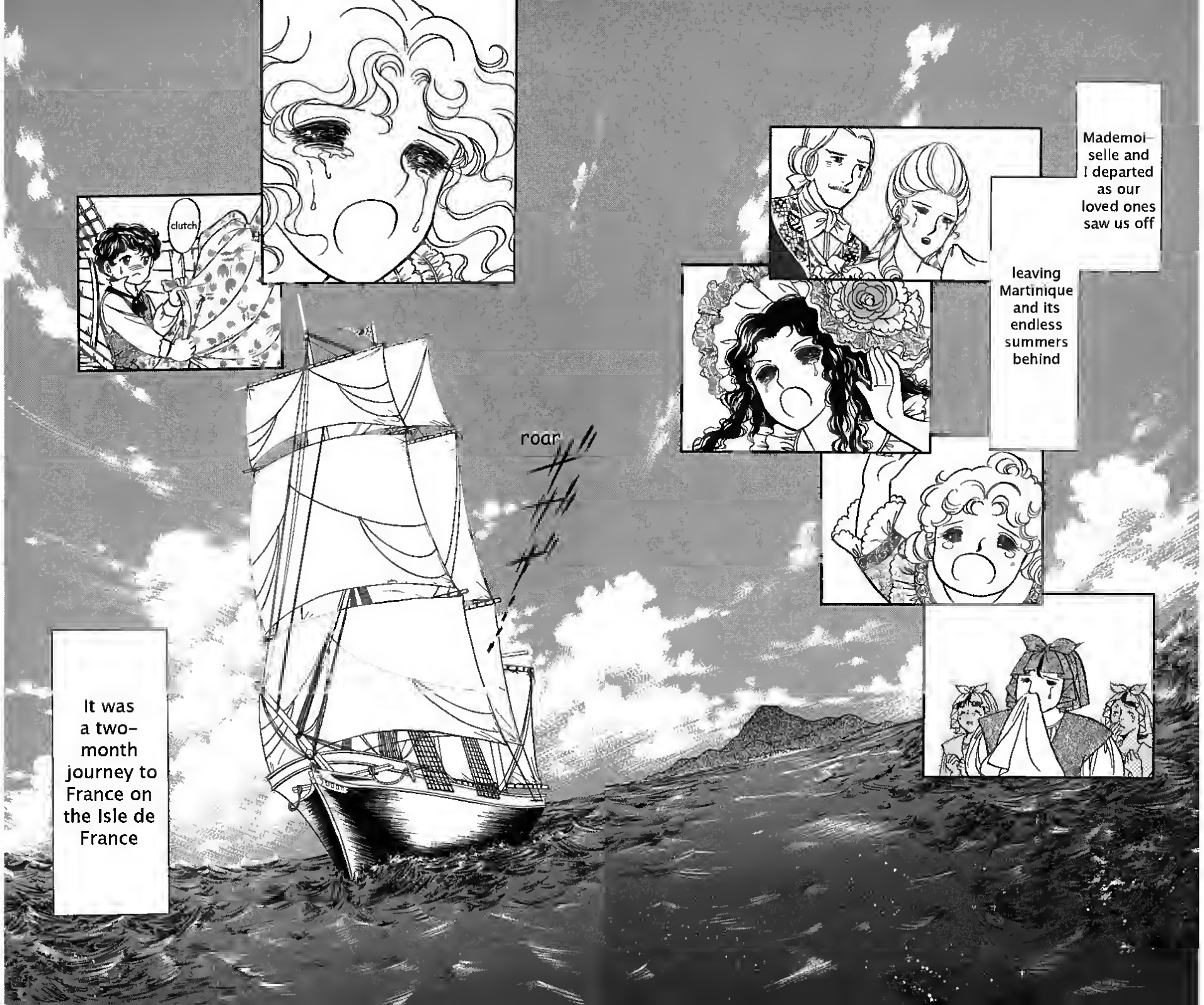
voila
Agathon
...
wail
Now you've made me cry with happiness
Marion, don't scold Agathon
nag
nag
nag
I told you to bring Mademoiselle!
clomp
It's my fault
I wonder what kind of life awaits me
Aymee
Marion? I'd like Eliama to tell my fortune, too

A few days later, my mother took Mademoiselle Aymee to see Eliama
The soothsayer told her that the son she would eventually give birth to will become a prince and later a king, and that Mlle. Aymee would become empress dowager
I'll go to Paris, too!
Wow! We are really something!

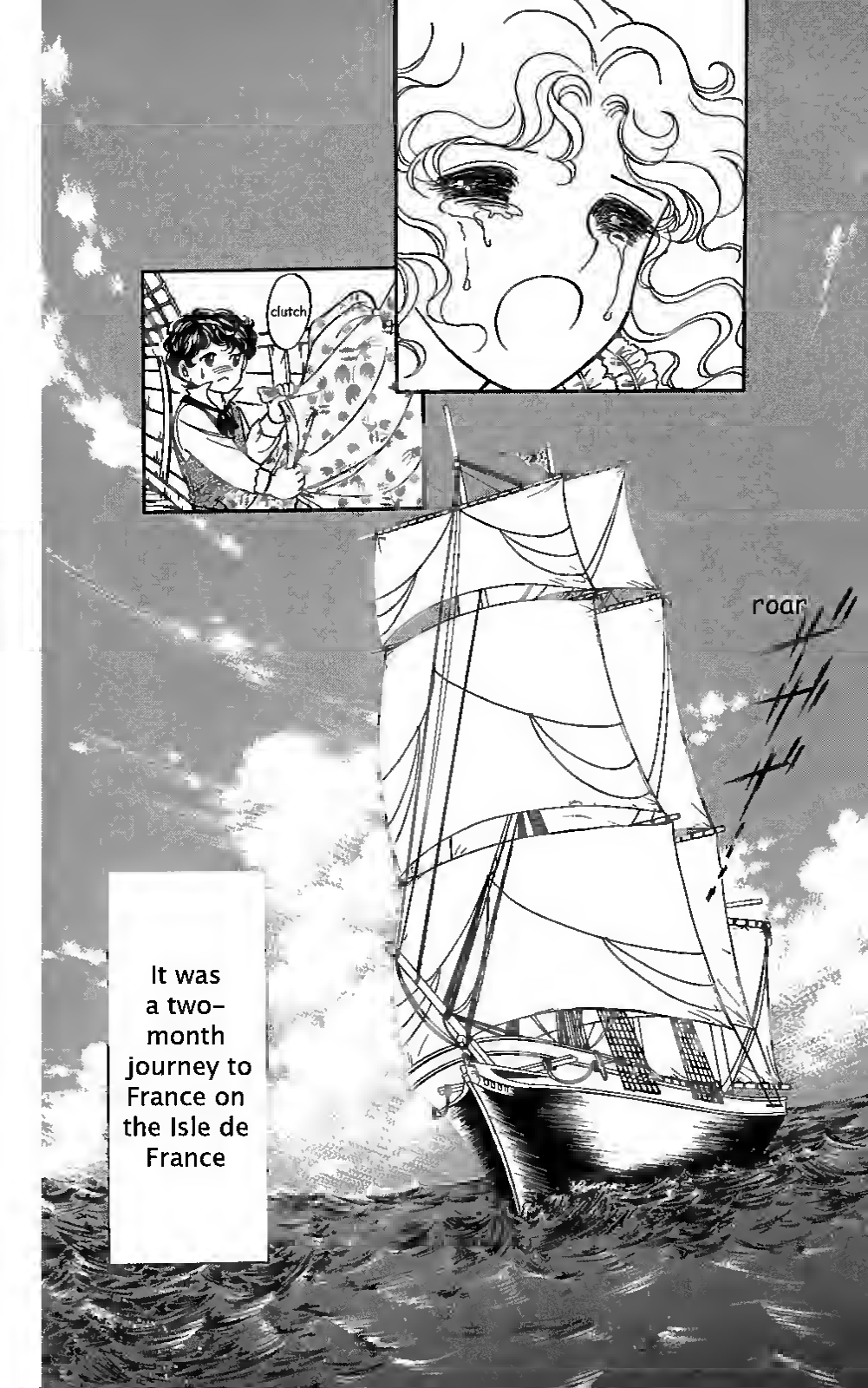
Made-moiselle Rose will become greater than a queen
and Made-moiselle Aymee will become empress dowager
The future was glowing with hope
and the too-bright sun shining on Martinique made the two girls believe in Eliama's incredible prophecy

Why don't we send Marion and Agathon with Rose?
Marion is our head maid She has to supervise our staff
Oh? Is that the only reason why you want her here?
Uh, yes, of course
Ah- hem
I'll be fine with just Agathon
Auntie Desirée lives in Paris, too
Yes, of course you can count on my sister


You can have any dress or jewelry you like, Francoise
Take me with you, big sister...
sob
I don't want anything
Fran-coise
Catherine wanted to go to Paris, too. And now you're going there
I'll be so lonely here I'm going to get even fatter!
sob
I promise I'll send for you, Francoise. It won't be long till I do
Cheer up!
That's a prom-ise
You work at becoming a fine lady


clutch
Mademoiselle and I departed as our loved ones saw us off
leaving Martinique and its endless summers behind
roar
It was a two-month journey to France on the Isle de France

Mademoiselle and I departed as our loved ones saw us off
leaving Martinique and its endless summers behind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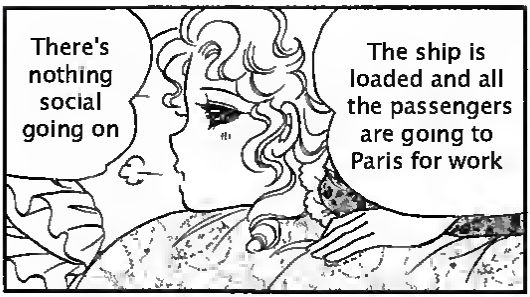
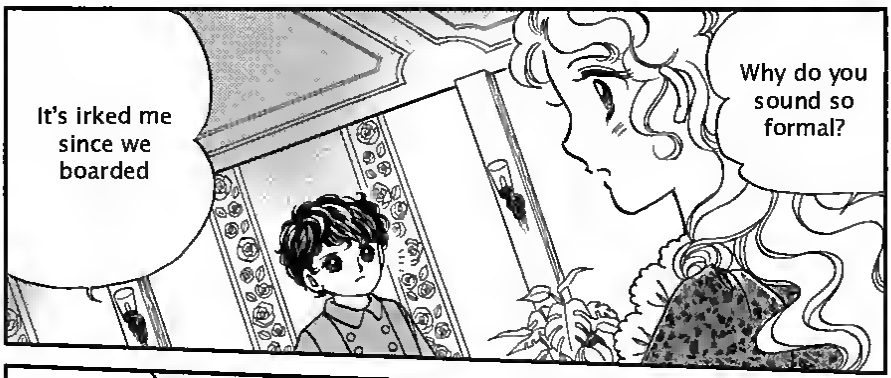
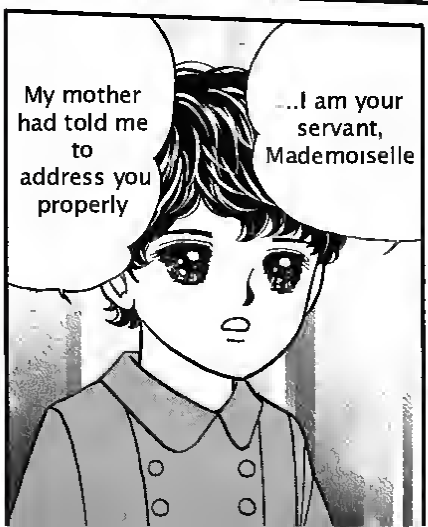
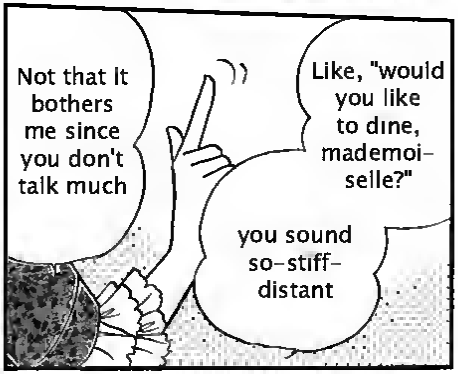

There's nothing social going on
The ship is loaded and all the passengers are going to Paris for work

This is boring, Agathon
thump
I'm tired of watching the sea and the sky

and this is perhaps the best cabin available
Well, this is a cargo ship, Mademoiselle

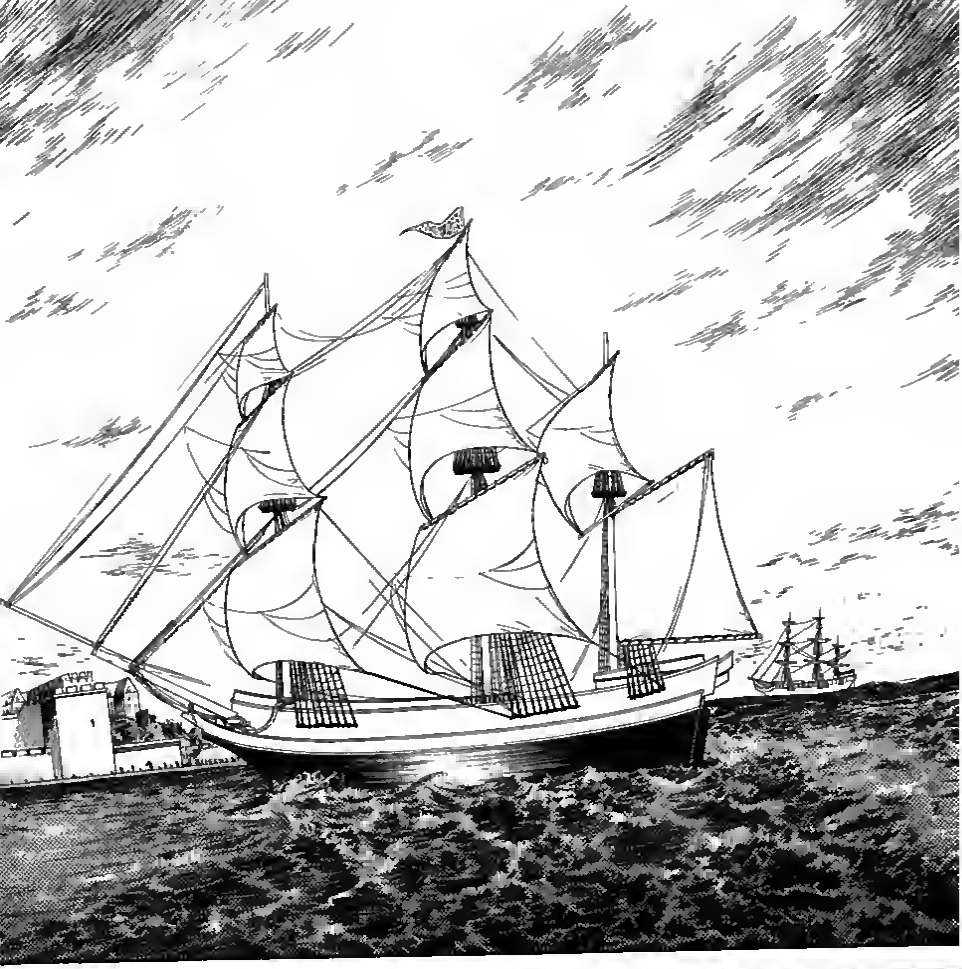

It's irked me since we boarded
Why do you sound so formal?


My mother had told me to address you properly
...I am your servant, Mademoiselle


Not that it bothers me since you don't talk much
Like, "would you like to dine, mademoi-selle?"
you sound so-stiff-distant

Mademoiselle is kind, so you need to know your place
Discipline yourself and serve her well
You don't have to think about things like that
You're still only 10
sob
sob
sob
Agathon ...
Please remember, I will also be a servant to Viscount Alexandre when we arrive in Paris
I am a servant
I'll be aware of my place if she can't– that's what I'd thought
Agathon...
I'm not sure if it was a good idea to bring you along...

The ship arrived in port at Brest, western France in late autumn 1779
Is this really France? It's dark and it's cold
Please wear this. A servant can get wet
You've been like that throughout our trip, Agathon!
Oh hug
It's okay, you'll get yourself wet
It's cold
br...



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It's cold
br...

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Is this really France? It's dark and it's cold
Please wear this. A servant can get wet
You've been like that throughout our trip, Agathon!
Oh hug

Auntie Desirée!
Rose!
Your man awaits
You must be tired after such a long trip at sea
We'll get your bags and be on our way to the Beauharnais residence
Auntie!
clomp clomp

thud
Welcome Made-moiselle Rose
click
Oh, it's Alexandre. He couldn't resist coming for you
I am Alexandre Beauharnais
How do you do, I'm Rose
And this is?
this is?

bow
Hm
He'll be taking care of things for me
This is Agathon
Huh?
clomp clomp
Huh?
Well, I'll see you in Paris, Desirée

...
Let us be on our way
What a busy man. No worries, men are all like that
Madame la Tousche!

ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
My sweet Alexandre!
You're the one who told me to do so
Are you sure it's okay to leave your bride from afar behind?
She's just a country bumpkin. The kid with her looked prettier
What a bad groom. She's young, looks healthy, and your type, no?
we can just mingle at someone's salon
We'll send your carriage back

I am a servant!
Auntie, Agathon can come with me...
Agathon, you get on the wagon at the back
Who are those people?
Hop on, boy
You shouldn't stare
there are tons of them in Paris
they can't read, they have no work...
People in the Third Estate

*class of commoners

The dark sky and cold rain, the Viscount's cool attitude– secretly, I wanted to go back to our island
she would have normally felt sorry for anyone who was strug– gling and shared her belongings with them
I wonder if Mademoi– selle is de– pressed inside her carriage
Rose
What's amazing about Mademoi– selle is that she can sleep any– where, anytime
We're here, Mademoi– selle
I'm hungry
and eat any– where and any– time

Go ahead and relax, the maids will help you
Marchioness Beauharnais would like to dine with you after you've taken a bath and freshened up
It has the best view here
Your room's ready- the attic
This is Paris!
A lady's appear-ance comes first!
glare
I'm very hungry
I'm fine as I am
growl

creak
creak
Bon-
jour
So
I brought
you supper
and came
to say hi
I heard the
young mis-
tress had
brought
a cute
servant
I'm
Agathon,
it is
a plea-
sure to
meet you
Hi, I'm
Jean, an
apprentice
cook
bow

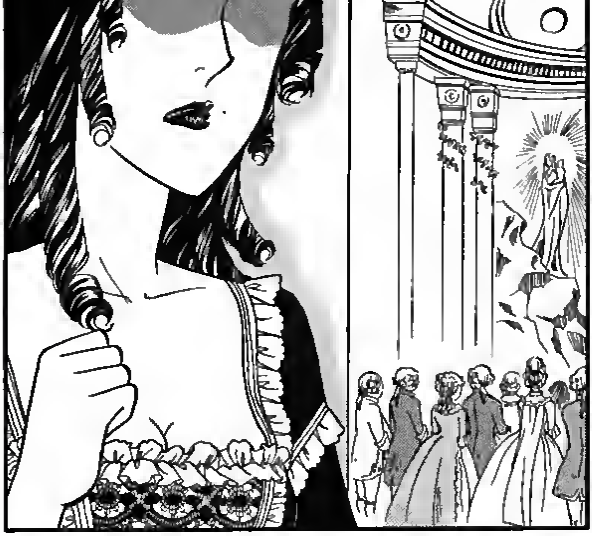
Don't worry about it, go ahead and eat
She's already having dinner
Where's Mademoiselle? I should be with her
Servants can't be nearby here
close to her
For the first time in my life I felt lonely
I was always near Mademoiselle's laughter on Martinique
Agathon

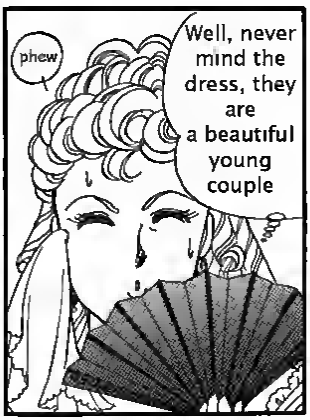
The view's fantastic
Hey, nice room
Let's go to dinner
Here you are!
me too
Were you lonely?
Made-moi-selle
I was the one who was always near her, protected by her
If you can't find me then I'll find you
Let's always be together

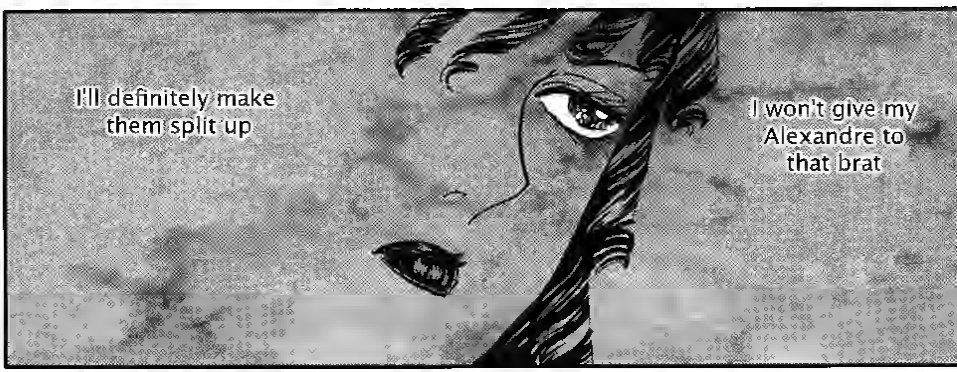
Thank you sir, madame
Welcome to the Beauharnais family
Rose! Welcome
She is such a pretty bride!
Thank you for bringing her to us, Desirée
Come, sit next to me
The Beauharnais in-laws were surprisingly friendly to Mademoiselle

they looked so good together
The Viscount kissed her hand
Rose!
Yes, for about a minute
Viscount Alexandre came to greet us at the port
I hope we'll be seeing our grandchildren soon
that is wonderful
Oh, so you've already met him
The marriage ceremony was held the next day
at the Church of Saint-Sulpice in the suburbs of Paris

she looks like a queen
Mademoiselle wore a dress made by Martinique's best tailor
and Alexandre was clad in a white military uniform
the design's old-fashioned
...and now you may kiss the bride

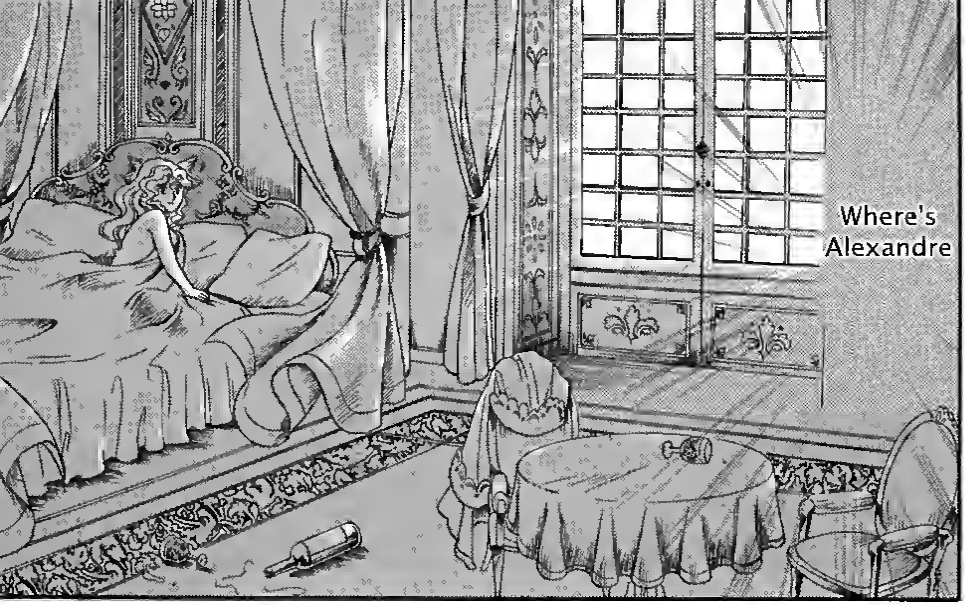



phew
Well, never mind the dress, they are a beautiful young couple


I'll definitely make them split up
I won't give my Alexandre to that brat

Day breaks early in Martinique so we usually retire early ...
It's, uh, late, time to go to bed
What is it? Come and join me for a drink
The night is young. Let's drink!
This is Paris
uh... yes
hesitant
bang
I said come here!
I've never had alcohol before
Here's to our night

ow, my head...
Ooh
why?
I hurt all over
and then...
I drank wine last night


Where's Alexandre

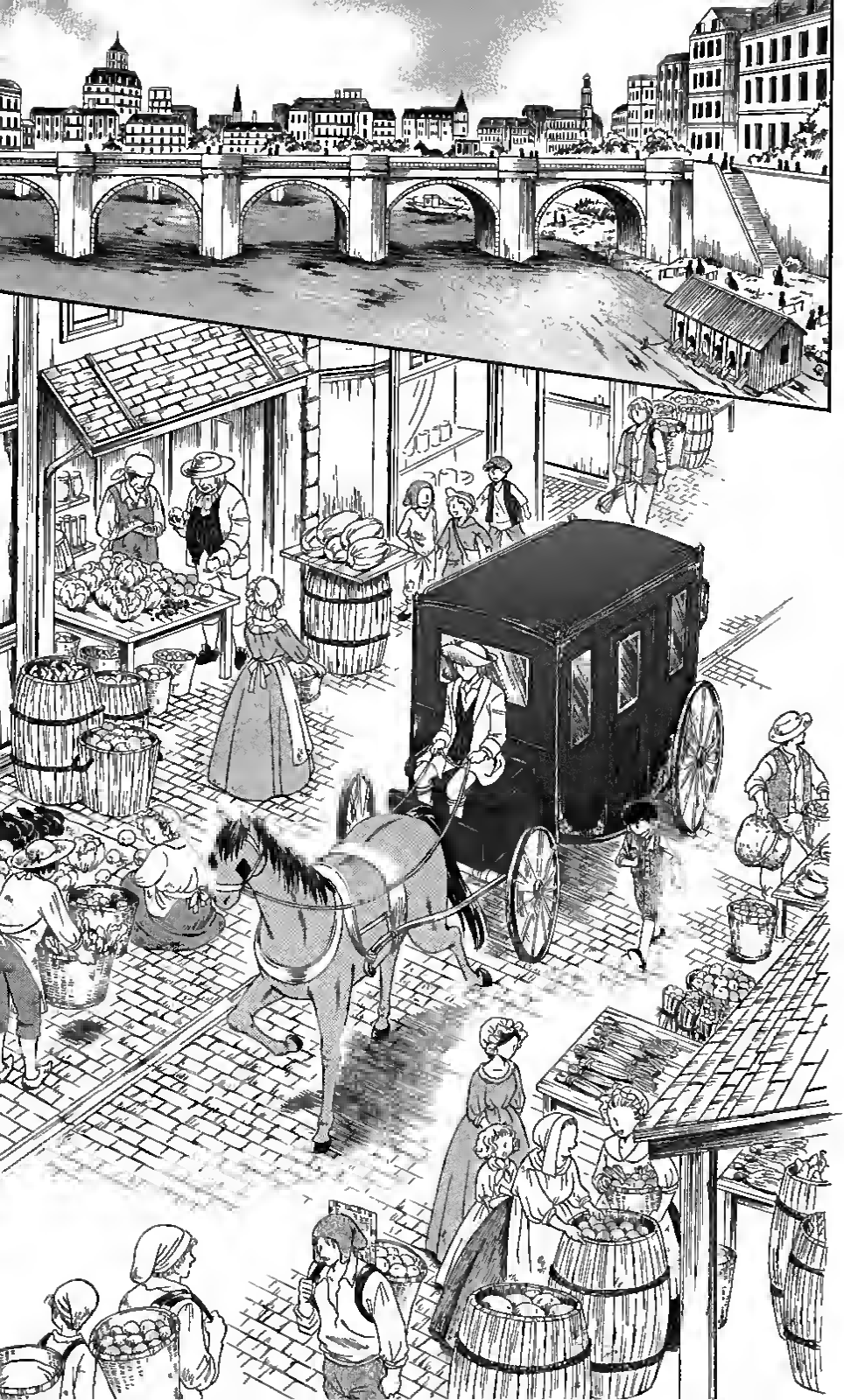
Made-moi-selle?

I see...

I want to see mama and papa...
I miss Martinique

He left on his horse early this morning
an early riser like the sun in Martini-que

Visiting your lover in the morning...how improper
It's improper whenever I come
I suppo-se
Of course not
Did you have fun last night?
You're much more than that
ha ha ha
And me?
dive
That's all she's there for
My parents want grand-children



I'd like those fruits Agathon
and those sweets, too
Madame, there's no need for charity
But I feel so sorry for her
Give these to that woman there

This is the Parisian life I'd dreamed of?
silence
and I have no friends
Alexandre is always out somewhere
I promised Francoise I'd bring her here
Catherine and Francoise had both dreamed of this city
I want to go back to Martinique!
I don't want to be here!

I'll ask mother-in-law
Is this maybe ...?
Oh!
Oh
I feel like throwing up
My chest-
creak
You're such a chicken
You said you just wanted a glimpse
Quick, before she comes back
Ah, a bedroom for newlyweds
then I'll leave
Kiss me here on your bed

click
What non-sense
Pretend I'm Rose
Agathon!
Who is it?
you dare sneak into your master's room!
You.. a servant
grab
Wait!
dash

whoosh
Tell me, what did you see?
I didn't see anything, sir! I didn't look!
thump
bam
bam
Don't lie!
What are you doing?
thud
Alexandre! Stop it!

You, Alexandre, were not my one true love!
.. what?
You poor thing
Agathon! Are you all right?
I'm going back to Martinique with Agathon and my baby!
You're .. with child?

grin
I hate you!
I hate Paris! I'm going back to Martinique!
...Rose!

Don't come near me!
Agathon! I can't stand this anymore
wail
wail
Let's go home!
wail
wail
Oh
Rose
wail
wail
wail
wail
wail
wail
Mademoi-selle?

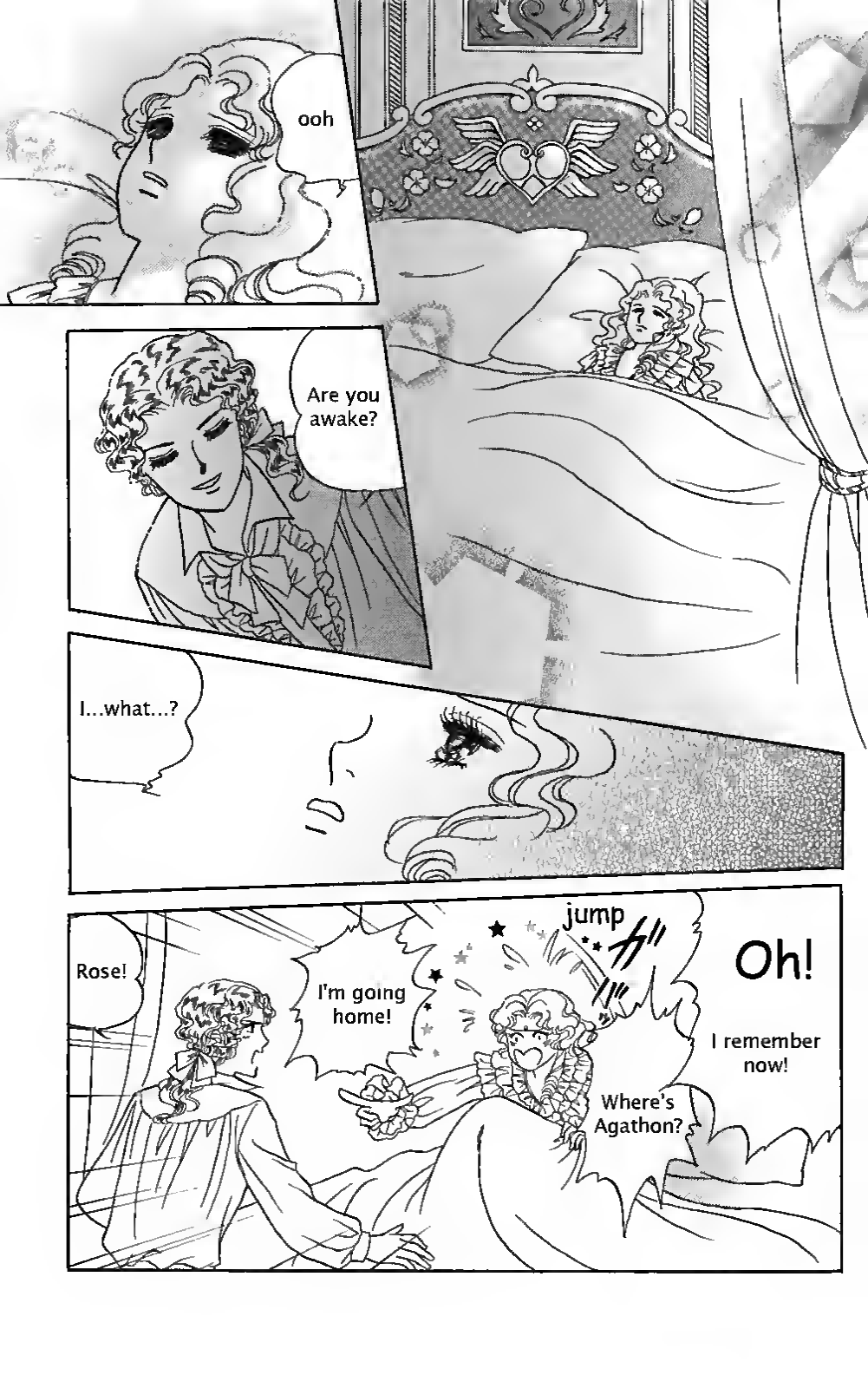
Rose!
slip
Get the doctor over here!
Agathon! Get the doctor!

What a situation ...
You're still here?
Aren't you taking me home?
You're less than a block away
Leave before everyone gets here
Leave before anyone sees you

Hmph! It might be a girl
Go, before they see you!
Rose!
Rose!
clatter clatter
I'll see you tonight
My wife is giving me an heir!

She was crying that loudly?
Yes
Her cries were echoing throughout the residence... then Agathon came
Pregnant ladies tend to become emotional
That child is in worse shape
He's barely standing-did someone punch him?
Crying too much...
Madame Rose just lost conscious-ness from crying too much

I'm sorry to have caused Madame concern
I was just careless
Is this why Rose was crying so badly? What happened?
Oh, my, I was upset about Rose and didn't notice
Let's go to the hall then
Madame Rose will be fine. Let's have a look at this boy
phew
Of course, mother
take good care of her
Alexandre, Rose is giving birth to our precious heir

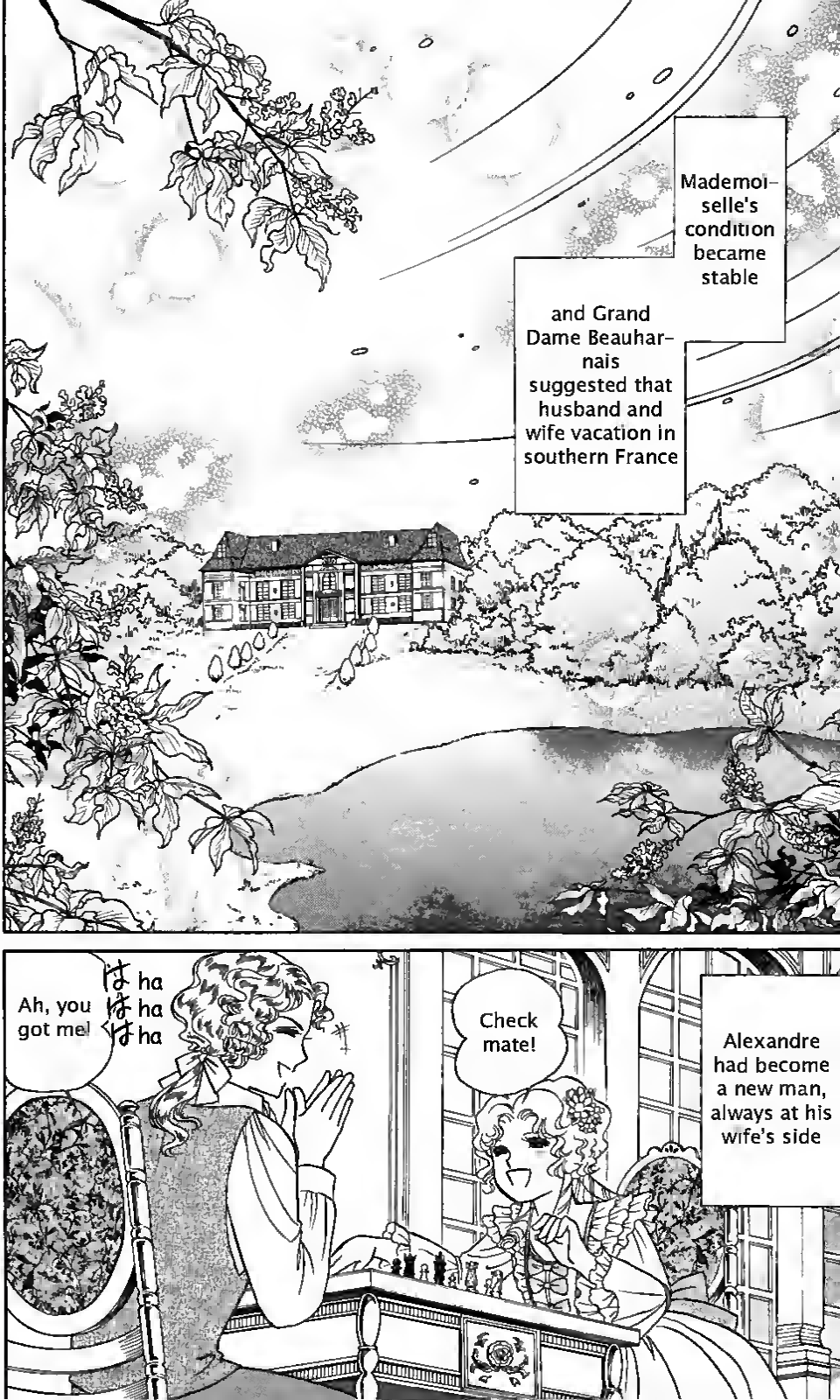

ooh
Are you awake?
I...what...?
Rose!
I'm going home!
jump
Where's Agathon?
Oh!
I remember now!

I love you
I'm sorry, dear
The doctor's looking at him right now
Agathon forgave me–he protected me by not saying anything to mother
I swear I'll never do anything like that again
Take a look around the room–it's my apology to you
Agathon protected you?
Please forgive your foolish husband

I'll bring you flowers every day until the baby is born
I ordered all the flowers available at florists in Paris
Wow...

Are you asleep?
Are you all right?
Aga-thon
Aga-thon
It's too dange-rous for you to climb up the ladder!
Made-moi-selle!
are you going to forgive him?
...that's no reason to beat you up so bad...
Did you really protect Alexan-dre?
It was my fault for entering your quar-ters
...

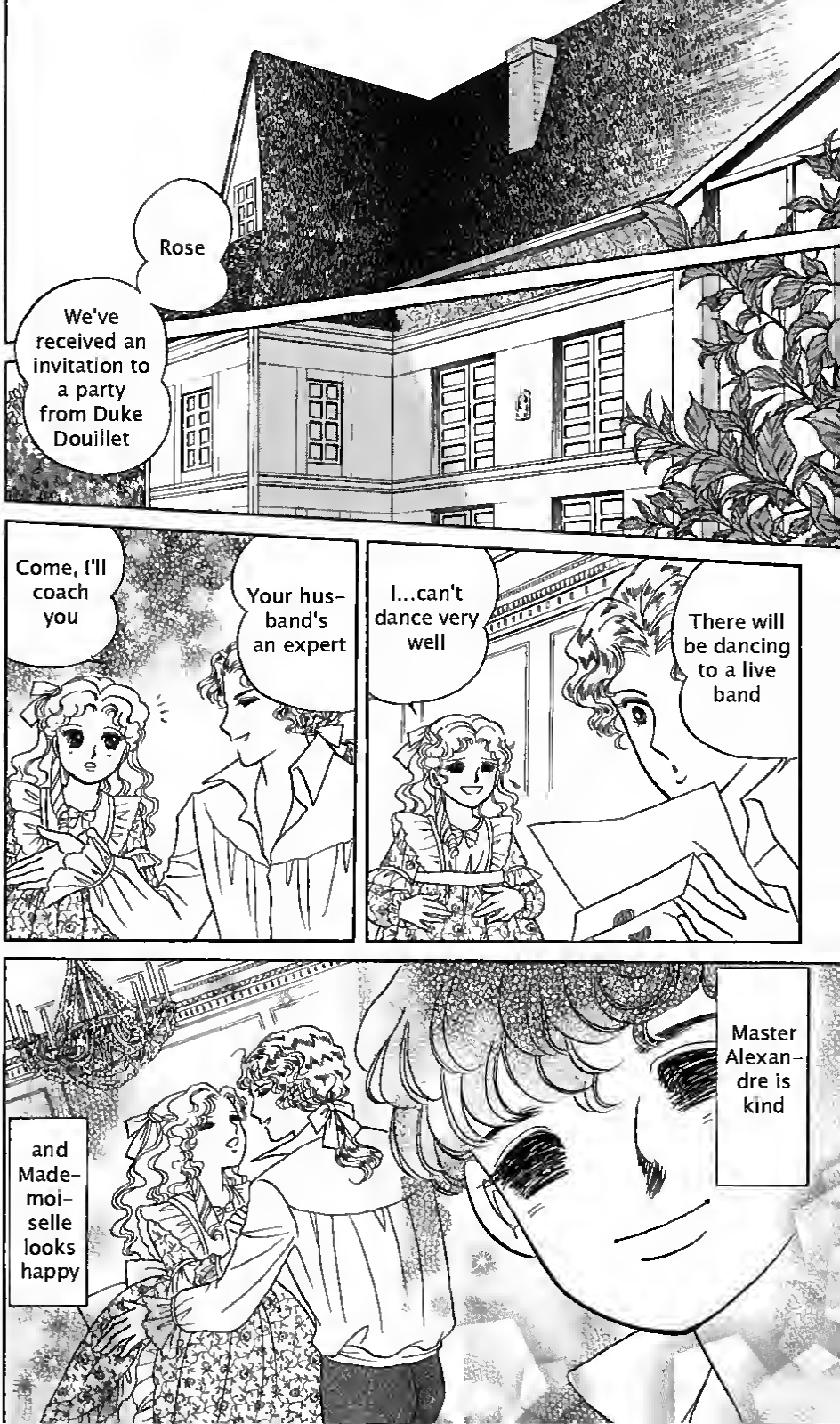
All right, if you say so.
...
It's nothing
Made-moi-selle
Good night, Aga-thon
so don't worry
He swore he'd never do any-thing like that again
Good night
she'd be the one hurt if I spoke the truth
It wasn't Alexandre but Mademoi-selle that I protected


Mademoiselle's condition became stable
and Grand Dame Beauharnais suggested that husband and wife vacation in southern France
Alexandre had become a new man, always at his wife's side
Check mate!
Ah, you got me!
はは ha ha ha

Oh, the marquis will win
I'm betting on the baron
Rose, I'm running for you and our baby
I'll show my wife a winner
I'll win
They would occasionally enjoy casual pastimes with other visiting nobles
ドドド
vrrrro
ドドドド
oom
and the men competed to win
Each of the women wagered on their special young noble
Wow, Alexandre, you've beat everyone

And I–
Who are you?
No, I'm a ser-vant
Why don't you work for us then? I'll hire you
You're the son?
I'm with the Beauhar-nais family–
Huh?

I encoun-tered a very strange girl
I'm Sophie. I'm Duke Douillet's granddaughter
Grandfather is richer than anyone else here
Agathon, we're leaving
Yes, madam
Think about it. I'm serious
Cute girl. What were you talking about?
Nothing ...


Rose
We've received an invitation to a party from Duke Douillet
Come, I'll coach you
Your husband's an expert
I...can't dance very well
There will be dancing to a live band
Master Alexandre is kind
and Mademoiselle looks happy

Okay?
Un
deux
trois
Get behind me, watch my steps
Come here
Agathon, I'll teach you, too
bang
Oops
Right
right
back
Left
forward
Right
right
I hoped our happy days would go on forever
I'm sorry
Ha ha, you've got talent

The Douillet castle sat on top of a hill
Was it okay for me to come with you?
Made-moiselle Sophie's waiting
Gah
Her!
Good evening Viscount Beauharnais, beautiful Madame

Let us all enjoy this evening
My distant relative Marquis la Tousche and his wife have also come
How do you do
Pleased to meet you Madame Beauharnais. Your husband is an acquaintance of ours
Right darling?
yes, yes
I'm getting bad vibes

Maybe it's my age, I don't like too much fuss
Wow, Agathon. The food's super, they have a band, and we and the la Tousches are the only guests
Cer-tainly
May I have a dance with your hus-band?

May I have a dance, Madame?
Uh, yes, sir
Let's dance, Aga-thon!
grab
I...
Your hus-band's sleeping standing up
Can't help it, he's more than 40 years my senior
You timed this well
I've been getting tired of playing house
bang
Oh!
Aah!

Ah!
Oh!
wham
Sorry, I'm a bad dancer
Tell Rose to go on home, and...
I'd like to talk to you
Let's go to the balcony
Let me help
You have a crush on Ag-athon, don't you?

...yes
You're getting in my way on purpose, eh?
I didn't want her to get sad
I was protecting Made-moiselle!
You protected me before
Aren't you on my side?
You brat! Don't tell me what to do
She will really go back to Martinique if she finds out about the two of you
Please don't bring Mme. La Tousche before her!

The Duke...
Alexandre! Agathon!
Oh, stop it Alexandre
So short-tempered. Come on inside
The Duke wants to talk to you
He wants to hire Agathon as a playmate for Mademoiselle Sophie...
and will pay anything for that
Hum
!

You must decline
No!
That's a nice offer
No!
You are too generous
You can have him now!
stick
ぴと
Whatever the cost or effort, I want to give her anything she wants
Sophie is precious to me
but I can give him an endowment that will secure him for life
Marriage won't be possible if Sophie still wants him once she's grown

We'll be sure to give you a positive reply!
Rose, wait!
Hey!
rattle
rattle
rattle
please forget about this conversation
Agathon, we're leaving
Excuse us, sir
Alexandre's gone
...
Waaaa
Agathon's gone
This is like she's begging for some toy
it's much too sudden
rumble
rumble
rumble
Why are you refusing?
We'll never have an offer like this

Have you ever thought about that?
He's even considering Agathon's future
Get ready to go back to Paris
Yes ma'am
Agathon we're packing
Agathon doesn't wait on me
Are you going to have him wait on you forever?
Talk to me!
Wait! I'm going with you
don't ignore me
Into the carriage Agathon
Yes ma'am
We're leaving
You wouldn't understand
Tell me!
What is he then?
thump
thump
thump
thump

How are you feeling, Rose?
You've come back sooner than we thought
Mother Beauharnais, my stomach ...
It... hurts
Quick, get the doctor!
Are these labor pains?

Aga-thon ...
How can you stay still?
Ooh うう…
Oh! ああ…
Aah! あぁ…
pace
and that all nobles are that way
The staff said he has many other women
Master Alexandre is worried
waaa waaa ギャア!
Or will Master Alexandre be that way some day?
The one true love that Mademoiselle desires—does such a man really exist?

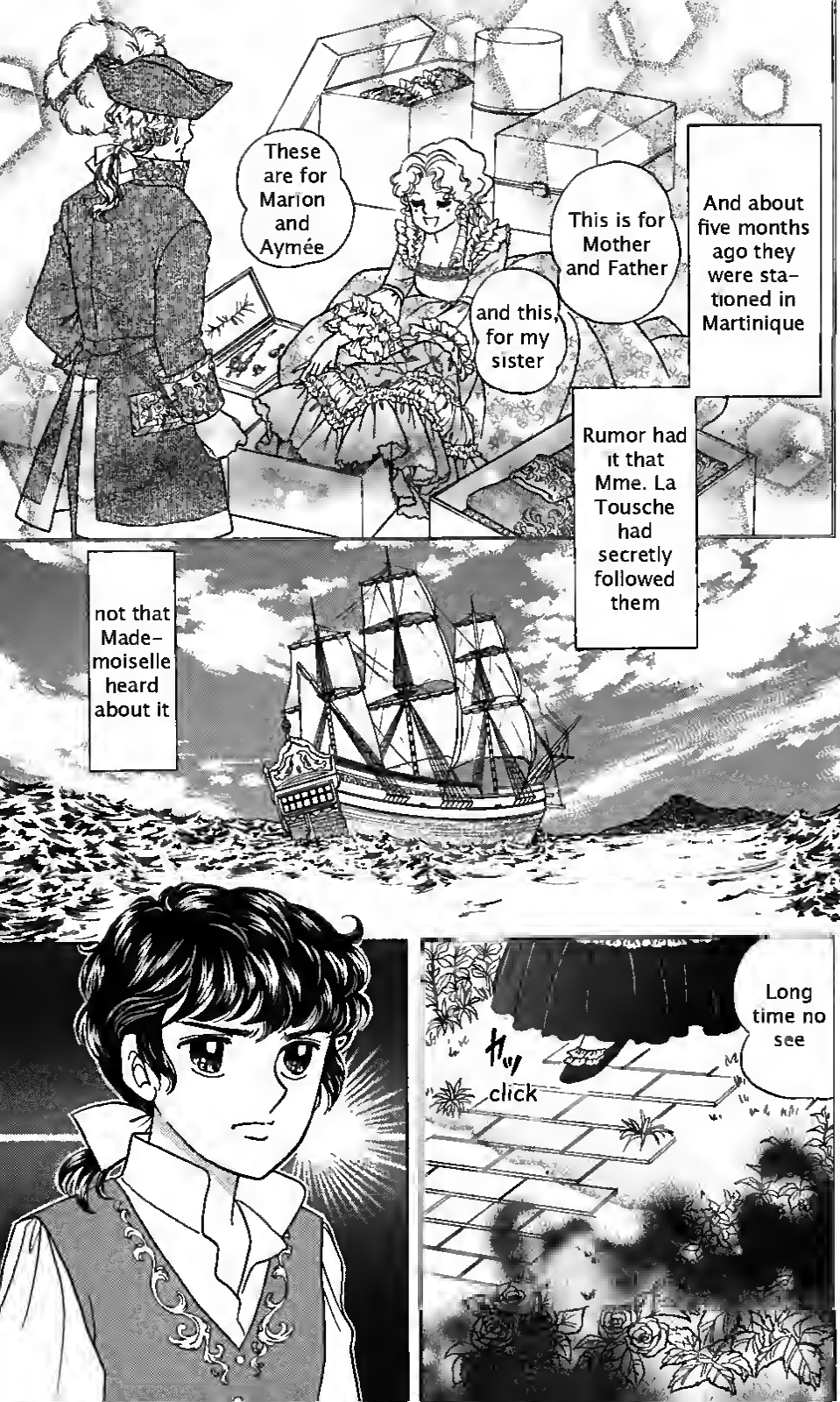
An heir–thank you Rose
It's a boy, sir
bang
The baby's here?
Is it a boy or a girl?
My baby ...
A wife had been expected to give birth to boy at the time
and the Beauhar–nais house–hold was overjoyed
and Made–moiselle was devoted to her son

As for me–
Hey, Aga–thon
while this is our hottest room in summer and the coldest in winter– don't be obliged to a woman like that.
Rose says she thinks about you but I'm more concerned about your future
Duke Douillet would give you a fabulous room

Don't bring junior to a place like this!
I'd like to talk to you about that
Eek
Come on down Agathon
Mother and Father Beauharnais said that as the mother of the heir, I'm now the mistress here
Here, hold junior
Don't drop him

Whatever
He'll take the room next to ours
Starting today, Agathon is in charge of junior's ducation
I'm sorry, Agathon
I'm sorry I couldn't do anything when we first came here
Without you I'd be broken
Junior's my treasure... but I have you in my heart
The closest to Mademoiselle
My place is in Mademoiselle's heart-

Aga-
thon-
Four years have gone by since we came to Paris
Alexand-re was barely home for his second child
Made-moiselle had a baby girl two years ago
My daugh-ter won't stop crying
look after Junior, will you?
wail
wail


These are for Marion and Aymée
This is for Mother and Father
and this, for my sister
And about five months ago they were stationed in Martinique
Rumor had it that Mme. La Touche had secretly followed them
not that Mademoiselle heard about it
Long time no see
click

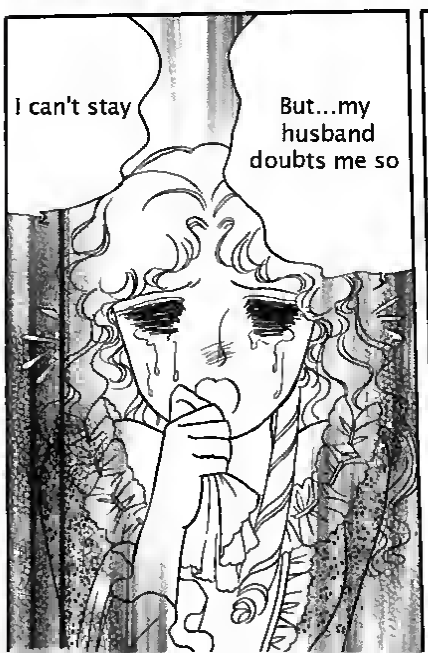
Four-teen, ma'am
How you've grown
Agathon
How old are you now?
It detracts from your looks
Relax, ok?
This...
It's from Alexandre
give it to Rose
Oh, good afternoon Mme. Beauhar-nais
Oh, hello, Mme. La Tousche

Alexandre often complained
Huh?
She was born prematurely, right?
Ah, what a sweetheart
wondering if he wasn't the father
grin
mm
what was that all about?
What-
Good day
We're very close, you see
Ho ho ho
grr

I won't let a daughter of some poor noble in a colony have him!
Now he's mine!
That woman brought it?
A letter? From my husband?
lift me up-
#rustle
About what?
Yes...

heh heh heh
She's always been quick to take off her clothes
They told me what you used to do on the Island
I met two sisters named Anne-Lynne and Anne-Roll
Those two?
The slut even seduced the pastor
I had no idea
What-what is this?
I'm terribly shocked and angry
Consider yourself lucky we aren't in Paris-there's no telling what I might do
I'm devastated thinking that you married me after all those other men!

We're finished! Get out of our estate
Farewell, unfaithful wife. I never want to see you again

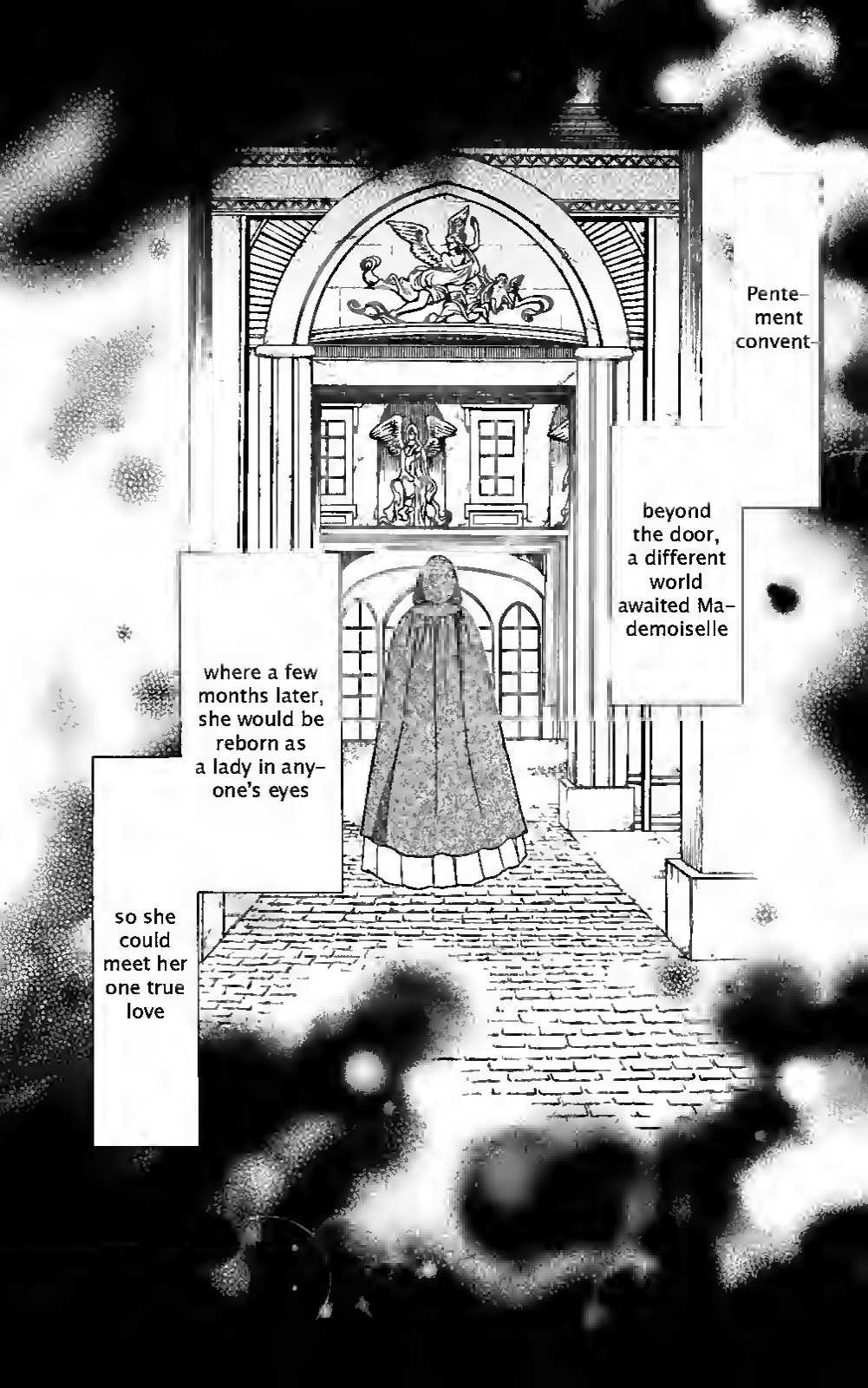

I can't stay
But...my husband doubts me so

We trust you
He's delu-sional
My God

Don't give in, Rose
We noble women are always troubled by our cheating husbands
cough
cough
cough
There must be a woman involved!
But I can't stay here...
Thank you Mother and Father Beauharnais
Yes, Rose, you're our precious daughter
Don't worry, you'll always be a Beauharnais
Alexandre needs time to cool his head, too
Stay away from prying eyes for a while

I'll tell him that you read his letter and left the kids in shock
That's good, he'll think about it then
...leave the children?
Agathon will be there, there's nothing to worry about
Just for a while
What are they saying?
What?

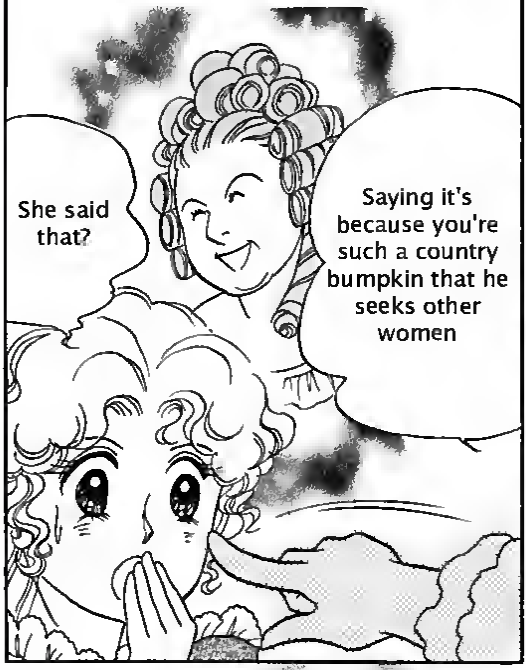
Mademoi-
selle was to
hide at a
convent
as rain fell
like the
day we
first
arrived in
Paris
and dark
clouds
covered
the sky
...such
depressing
weather


Pente-
ment
convent-
beyond
the door,
a different
world
awaited Ma-
demoiselle
where a few
months later,
she would be
reborn as
a lady in any-
one's eyes
so she
could
meet her
one true
love

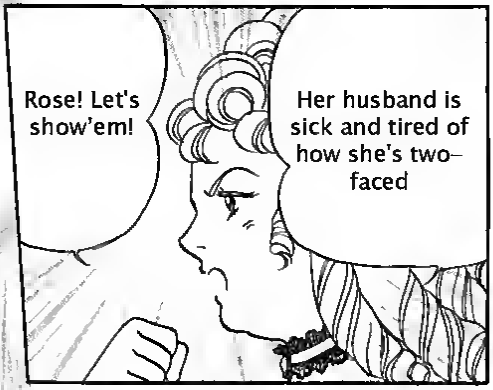
your belongings have already arrived from the Beauharnais residence
Rose, we've been waiting for you
You did?
I asked your father-in-law to send you here
Auntie Desirée
I'll introduce you
Many of my old friends live here

no way!
This is a convent?
How cute!
Oh, Desirée
is this your niece?

Welcome, Rose
Marchioness Spoerry
Bonsoir
Marchioness Vosges
How do you do
This is Viscountess Horbourg
We're going to make you attractive and show that Mme. Beauharnais
We'll show you how a single woman can be strong
Your room's over here
We're all widows
Huh .. hello
What do you mean?
Show her?


She said that?
Saying it's because you're such a country bumpkin that he seeks other women

She complained to me about bringing her son such an unsophisticated bride


Rose! Let's show'em!
Her husband is sick and tired of how she's two-faced

Culture, taste, and social skills
Leave it to us

Mme. Beauhar-nais-
I didn't know that you were so cruel

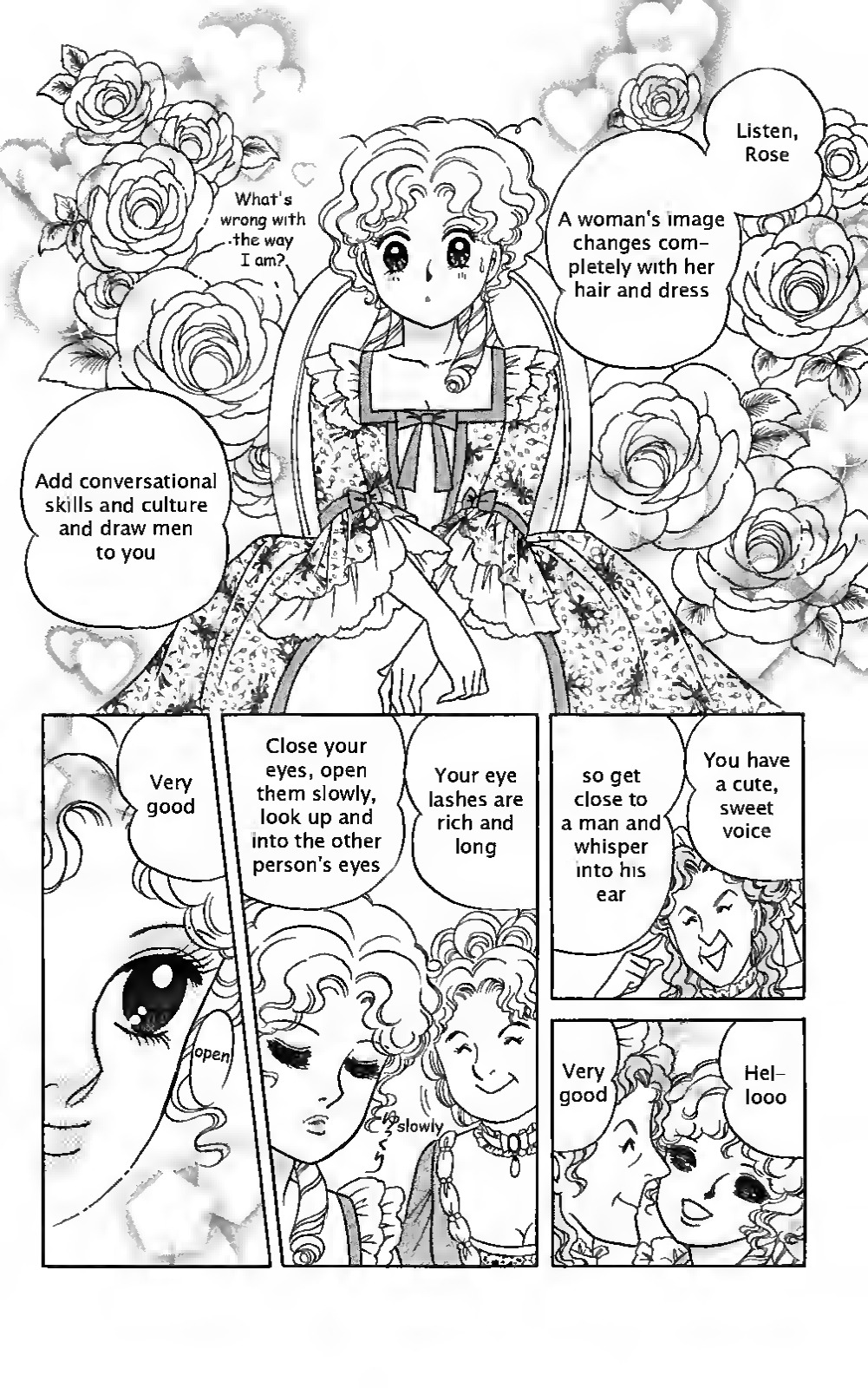
Meet our newcomer
Oh, Duchess Lomeaux
H...how do you do
bang
My husband is coming to see me
Quickly, go!
I've been rejuvenated here
Welcome, Rose
There's no other convent that's so much fun
You're free to do anything else
and two, no overnight stays out
Pantemont convent has just two rules
One, to attend mass every morning

Yes, Madame?
Leave Eugene and Hortense to the nanny. I have other work for you
Huh?
Agathon!
Agathon!

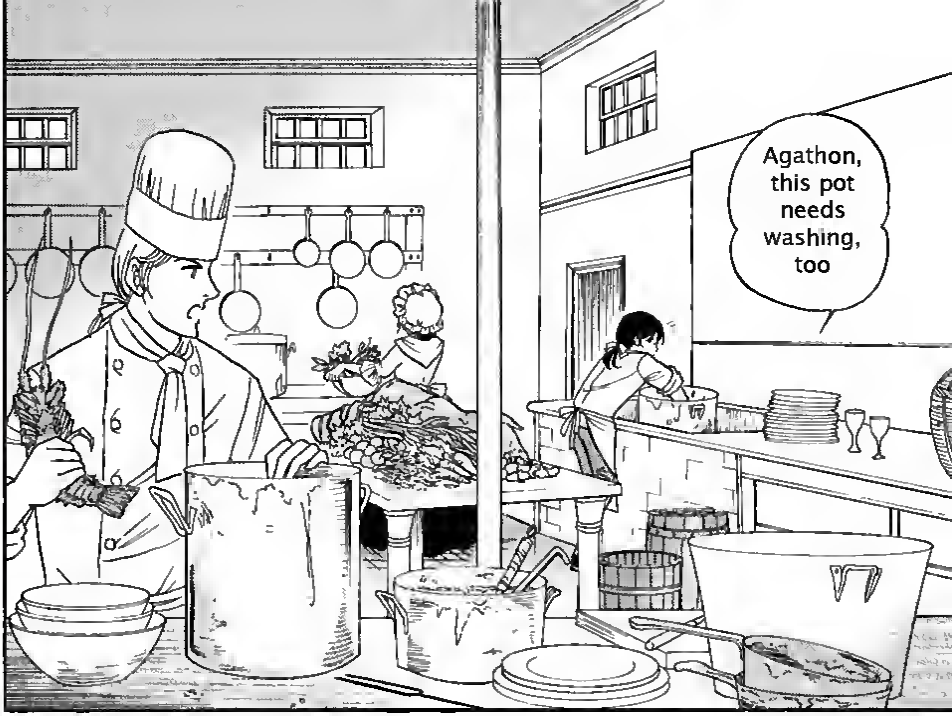
Yes?
and we've dismissed 10 servants
The convent costs a hefty monthly fee
Yes, Madame
You can use your old room until Rose comes back
So you must make up for them
You understand?
Don't mention it to Rose though

clank
Was the window always this small?
It sure is dusty
unused for more than three years
Agathon...you are in my heart
I would break apart without you

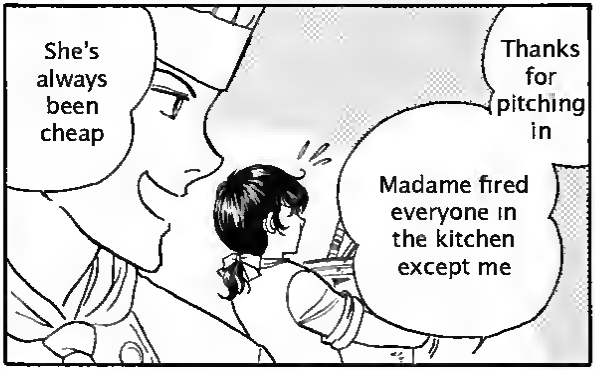
I still get to see Eugene and Hortense every day
I'll listen to Mme. Beauharnais till then
Until Mademoiselle returns..
ゴホッ
cough
Until Mademoiselle returns
cough
cough
ゴホッ
ゴホッ
I had no idea then that Mademoiselle would never be back here


What's wrong with the way I am?
Listen, Rose
A woman's image changes completely with her hair and dress
Add conversational skills and culture and draw men to you
Very good
open
Close your eyes, open them slowly, look up and into the other person's eyes
slowly
Your eye lashes are rich and long
so get close to a man and whisper into his ear
You have a cute, sweet voice
Very good
Hel-looo

It's common sense among nobles
It's necessary for getting a wonderful patron
If a man two-times you, do it right back. Prove your appeal!
Don't think like that!
What's all this for?
And even a nice cottage
And buy you dresses, jewelry,
So you can find one who'll take you to a ball at Versailles
A noble-man with rank, power, and money
A patron?
We'll show you all the techniques for driving men crazy
Waste ... I guess
A husband who doesn't love his wife will only waste her
Say good-bye to Alexandre
That's the way you should go
We work hard each day at becoming appealing


Agathon, this pot needs washing, too

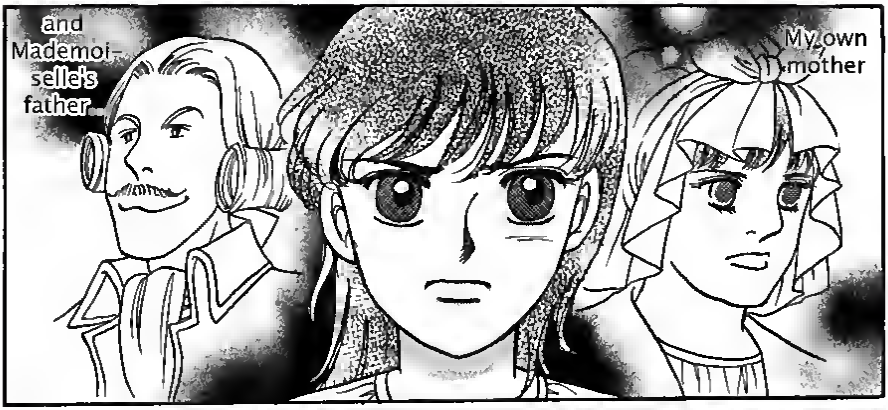
But a jeweler was here earlier

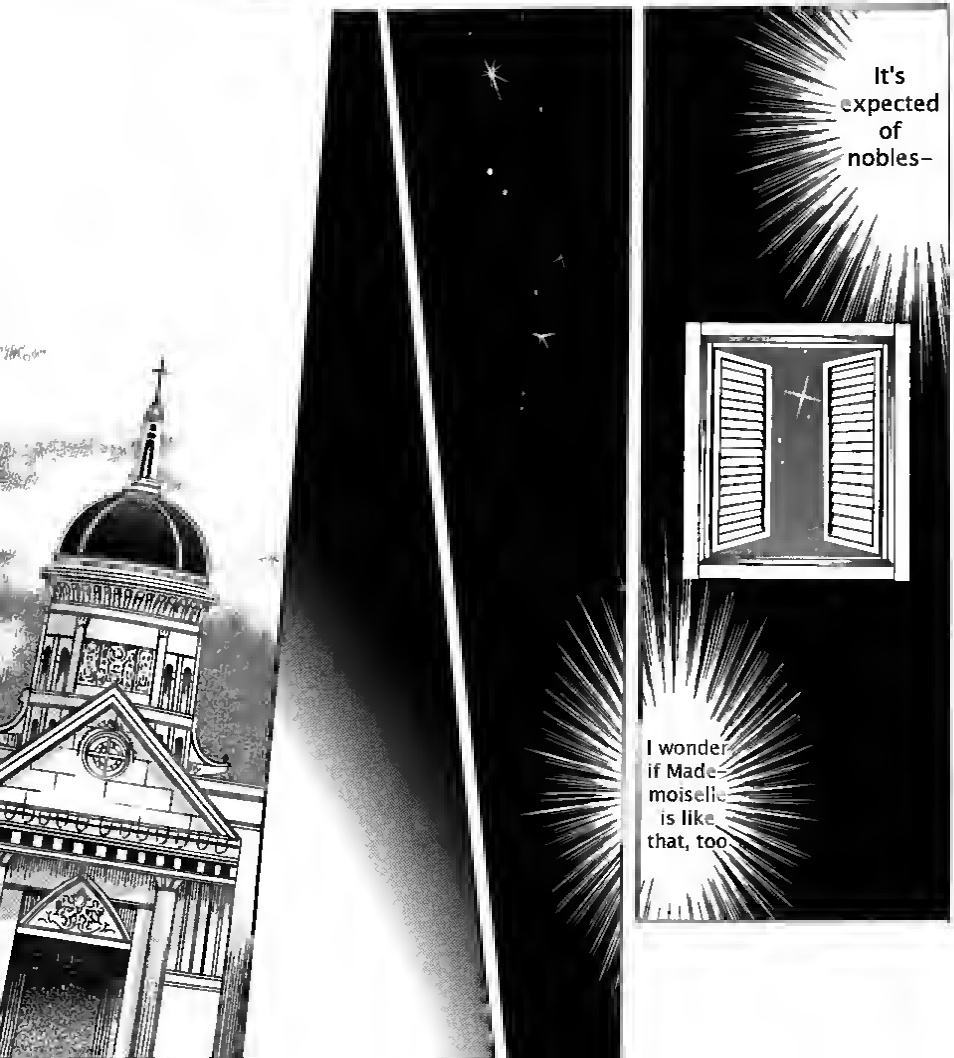

She's always been cheap
Thanks for pitching in
Madame fired everyone in the kitchen except me

The King? He's in deficit but he gave that Austrian woman two castles
It's disgusting. More than 500,000 people are poor in Paris while they support the nobles

I heard she's spent even more to refurbish those castles
Queen Marie Antoinette!
That Austrian woman?
They use 10,000 candles a day?
すご!! wow
The 10,000 candles they use at the Petit Trianon each night is worth a week's pay for 10,000 laborers!
I've seen caricatures
saying she's increasing our debt
extravagant woman
Even here, they use at least a hundred a day
I feel too guilty to use mine now

Master Mar-quis
Come down here
Aga-thon
I need you for an errand
and give this letter to Desirée on your way back
Go and see Rose tomorrow
Master Alexandre
and Mme. La Tousche
Give this money to Rose. It's costly at the convent
Don't tell my wife about it
Master Marquis and De-siree...
Okay?


and Mademoiselle's father
My own mother


It's expected of nobles–
I wonder if Mademoiselle is like that, too

Agathon! So nice to see you again
Here, how do I look in this dress?
From my father-in-law? How lovely
This money is from Master Marquis
How do you like my manner-isms? Think I'll get a good man?
You know, I finally feel that I've really come to Paris
Ho ho ho
Uh, Master Eugene is...
Mademoi-selle has... changed

Master Eugene wants a donkey
Miss Hortense wants a wooden horse
Made-moiselle!
Come back and see me again, Agathon
Where has the tailor gone?
Vis-countess Hors-bourg
He has brought a lot of fabrics from Italy
He's in Duchess Lo-meaux's quarters
...
Please, come on in
Duchess Lomeaux
I'd like to order a dress, too
so excited about dresses like a different person
Mademoiselle- so disinter-ested in her children...

I hate grown-ups. I hate royalty
It's not right...
...and the way Ma-demoi-selle was today
Don't tell the Madame though
Oh, a letter from my darling!
Tell him I love him

Come here, Trois
squeal
squeal
squeak squeak
What's the matter?
Trois can't ignore a person who's crying

thump
yelp
whoosh
Please leave me alone
Nothing
splash
Trois!
Trois!
float!
Die!
ha ha ha
あはは
Stupid noble dog
ha ha ha
はははは

splash
Porteau! Come quickly!
Please, help Trois!
Mademoiselle!
The current's fast!

Oh...
That tickles
lick
lick lick
jump
I...
I was warming your body with a massage
Good, you're back

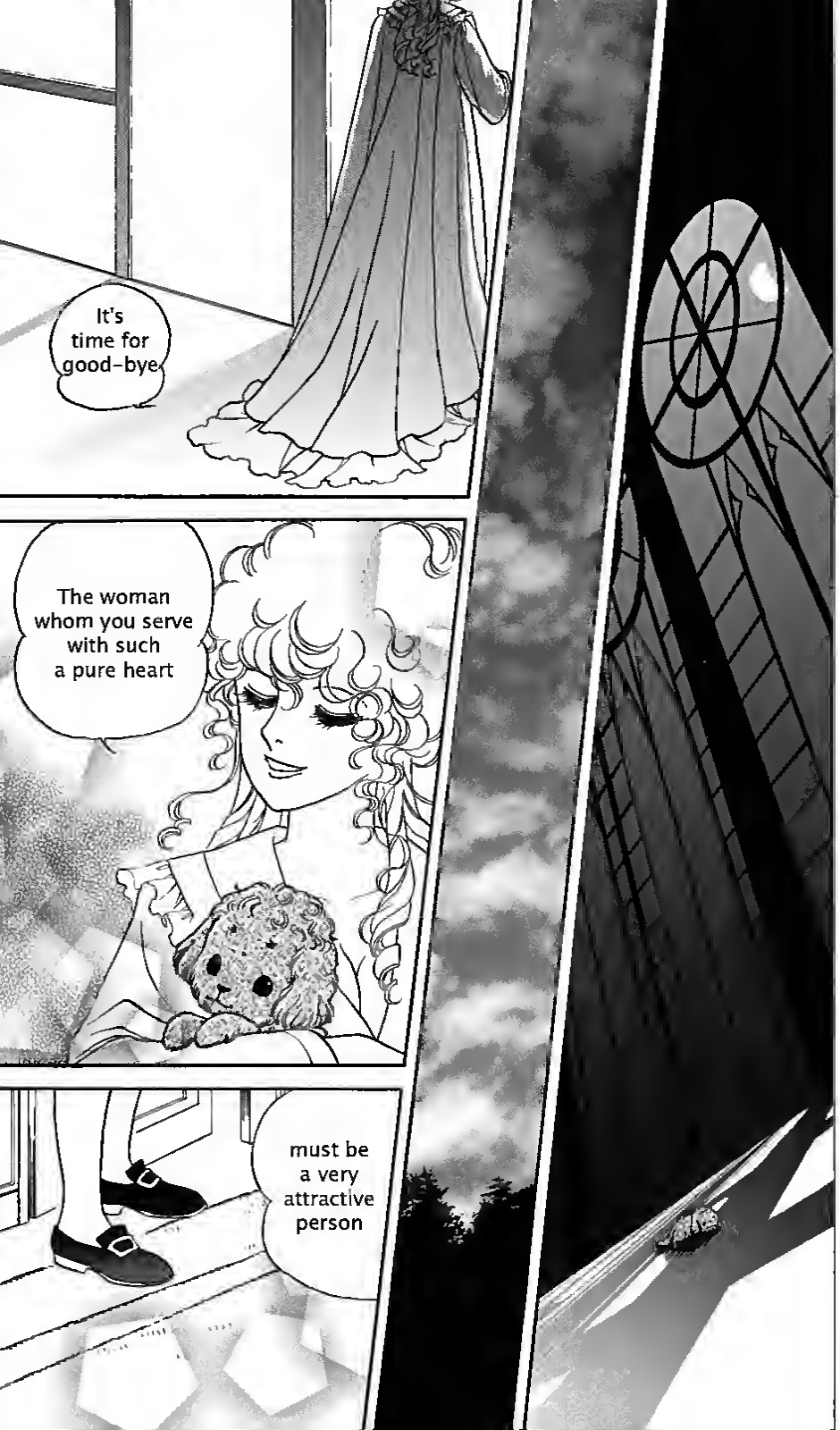
Don't suddenly get up
You almost died for my puppy
Thank you for saving Trois
What's your name? I'd like to repay you
It's Aga-thon
There's no need to repay me. I'd better get going
Your clothes haven't dried yet
Would you like to wear Porteau's clothes?
No, wet is fine
Where do you live?
grin
I'm a servant at the Beauhar-nais resi-dence

Porteau will take care of things
click
...Agathon
Stay here and relax for a night
I'm Louise
I came with Porteau to visit Paris
I'd been sick and tired of the two-faced Mme. Beauharnais,
Master Beauharnais, so infatuated with Desirée,
and Mademoiselle, happy with her goings-on and forgetting about her children

More than anything, I was attracted to the sweet fragrance of this beautiful woman
Thank you
bow
Why were you crying?
A clean, handsome lad like you watching the Seine and shedding tears
Is your work too hard?
Talk to me, get it off your chest
Such a kind, gentle voice...
No one besides Mademoiselle had ever spoken to me like this
The woman that I serve...her husband has a lover
but Mademoiselle is also trying to seduce men...

the body is only tempo-rary
Then love just her heart
and she is my every-thing...
I'm in her heart
I realized what had made me sad
No!
You kiss someone, bed some-one
and can you still say that she is your everything?
it was the change that was happening to the Mademoi-selle that I knew
Then do you want to bed your Mademoi-selle?
I'm not...

you are so young
Don't be sad
You, too, must change
eh, Agathon?


It's time for good-bye
The woman whom you serve with such a pure heart
must be a very attractive person

perhaps I am a con woman
Oh
May I ask your position, Madame Louise?
Should we meet again, please promise me that you'll act like a stranger
Aga-thon
Aga-thon!

A messenger brought gold Austrian coins in appreciation
I heard that you rescued a relative of the Queen from the Seine River
and well done
You're back
really is a con woman!
Maybe Mme. Louise
Thank you for bringing them, Agathon
Eugene! Hortense!

Love her heart
Mademoiselle had been listening after all
so they'll be arriving soon
I spoke to father-in-law about Eugene's donkey and the wooden horse for Hortense
Mommy
Thank you mommy
Here you go
tug
My necklace fell between my breasts
will you find it for me?
Hi handsome
Okay, okay. What a level-headed guy
Duchess Lomeaux, don't flirt with my kids' teacher

Agathon
I wouldn't be excited without a true connection
I thought you'd be more excited
Yes, really
Seriously. You really are some-thing
Mademoi-selle?
You've moved me with those words
Please don't tease me

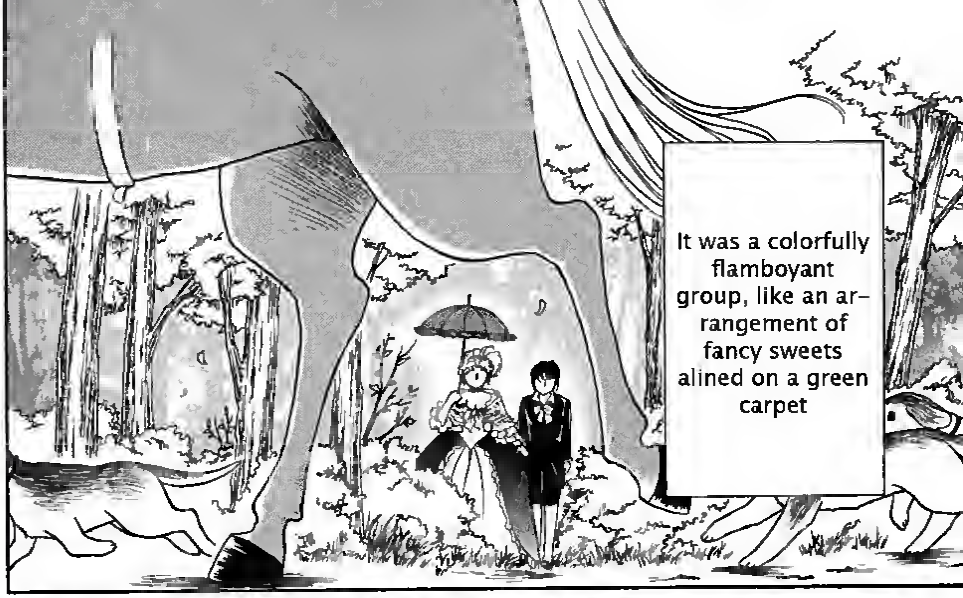
Mme. Beauharnais also grew tired of her flirtatious husband and left him
Mademoiselle separated with Alexandre, and she would raise the children, receiving 6,000 livres yearly for their expenses
After enjoying the convent and staying there for a year and ten months, Mademoiselle decided to live with Desirée
Welcome! We've been waiting for you
Rose! Eugene! Hortense!
The Marquis was happy at Fontainebleau with Desirée

*A separation had been equivalent to a divorce, which had not been accepted legally at the time

She's a goddess in a man's eyes
Really, how Rose has become sophisticated
So enchanting, even in a woman's eyes
ah-hem
poke
Dear!
Things will get busy-many men I met in Paris live here in Fontainebleau.

Viscount l'Oraine is here incog-nito
Viscount d'Ordeau has arrived
As Mademoi-selle said,
In salons
Madame, you are always so beautiful
I'd like you to teach me about your good taste
or at tea with the ladies

thump thump
Mme Rose!
Made-moiselle was always very busy
flutter flutter
let s see, um
thump thump
Is there someone in your heart?
No thank you
There are many ladies who would like to meet you, Agathon
Look!
Agathon!

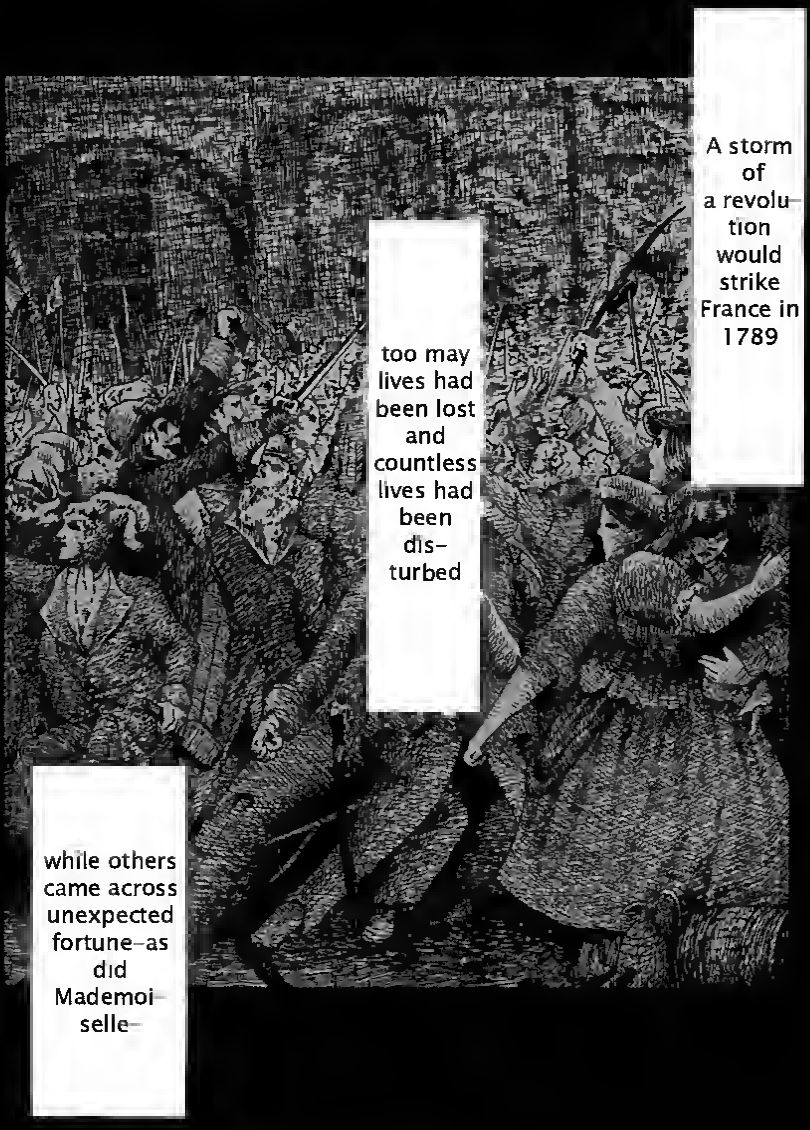

It was a colorfully flamboyant group, like an arrangement of fancy sweets alined on a green carpet

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette often enjoyed hunting in Fontainebleau this time of year

Mme. Louise!
Who was that? She was looking at you
She's prettier than the Queen
...I don't know
perhaps I am a con woman
She had not been a con woman

I believe what Eliama said
Or rather, I'll be at their fore-front
Agathon...I'm going to become a part of that group
Watching the flamboyant royals of Versailles, something clicked inside Mademoiselle
You'll become a woman
who's even greater than the queen

The Palace of Fontainebleau was one of the two castles that Louis XVI gave his Queen
and after supporting the War of Indepen-dence in the U.S., which battered France financially,
the major renovations carried out by the Queen added to the pressure
The time had been autu mn, 1787
The truths about wasted taxpayer money
Public cries unheard behind the glory
The King infatuated by a woman
As nobles drowned in ex-travagance, the people directed their anger to Marie Antoinette


A storm of a revolu-tion would strike France in 1789
too may lives had been lost and countless lives had been dis-turbed
while others came across unexpected fortune-as did Mademoi-selle-

Josephine the French Rose-End of Part I

Josephine the French Rose 1

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi
Story Kaoru Ochiai

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